

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING  
October 6, 1998  
8:00 a.m.  
Cultural Center  
Bethel, Alaska

**VOLUME I**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Harry O. Wilde, Sr., Chair  
Robert Nick  
Ilarion J. Nicolai  
Willard D. Church  
Billy McCann  
James A. Charles  
Lester Wilde  
John Hanson  
Thadius Tikiun, Jr.

John W. Andrew, Coordinator

Interpreters:

Chuck Hunt  
Alex Nick  
Jon Dyasuk

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 //

3 (On record - 8:20 a.m.)

4 //

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning. Bethel will always be  
6 the substitute. I think this is the second, three times we've  
7 been, but it's okay. We've got a place to meet. I'm going to  
8 call to order right now, and I'm going to request for roll  
9 call. Ilarion, will you roll call? In your Tab A you could  
10 find the roll call names there.

11 //

12 MR. NICOLAI: Robert Nick?

13 //

14 MR. NICK: Here.

15 //

16 MR. NICOLAI: Paul Manumik, Sr.? Paul Manumik, Sr.?  
17 Paul Manumik, Sr.

18 //

19 MR. ANDREW: Absent. Absent.

20 //

21 MR. NICOLAI: Absent. Ilarion -- myself, here.  
22 Secretary Fritz George?

23 //

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: He's excused. Ill.

25 //

26 MR. NICOLAI: Willard Church?

27 //

28 MR. CHURCH: Here.

29 //

30 MR. NICOLAI: Billy McCann?

31 //

32 MR. McCANN: Here.

33 //

34 MR. NICOLAI: James Charles?

35 //

36 MR. CHARLES: Here.

37 //

38 MR. NICOLAI: John B. Thompson, Sr.?

39 //

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: He's excused.

41 //

42 MR. NICOLAI: Paul John?

43 //

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: He's also excused.

45 //

46 MR. NICOLAI: Lester Wilde?

47 //

48 MR. L. WILDE: Here.

49 //

50 MR. NICOLAI: Alternate John Hanson?

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1 MR. HANSON: Here.

2 //

3 MR. NICOLAI: And Thadius Tikiun?

4 //

5 MR. TIKIUN: Here.

6 //

7 MR. NICOLAI: Chairman Harry Wilde?

8 //

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

10 //

11 MR. NICOLAI: Mr. Chairman, nine present, three  
12 excused, one absent.

13 //

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, and we have quorum. Also  
15 before introduction, I would like to ask Robert Nick to give us  
16 an invocation this morning. All stand.

17 //

18 MR. NICK: Could you all stand, please?

19 (Indiscernible, away from microphone). Our Father who art in  
20 Heaven, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we gather here  
21 before You to discuss and deliberate on the resources of the  
22 land that You've provided. We ask that You give us wisdom and  
23 foresight to think of our children and the future, that they  
24 will have enough to feed their families. We thank You for all  
25 that you have given us. We ask that You remember our children  
26 in the future, that You'll provide well as You provide us well.  
27 We ask that You guide us in our deliberations, and that any  
28 decision that comes to mind unify us, that we do in friendship.  
29 We pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.

30 //

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Qu yana, Robert. I think it always be  
32 good to have introduction this morning. I would like to ask  
33 everyone here in the room to introduce themselves. I think start  
34 from the corner over here, Council, start from John Hanson,  
35 where you're from and.....

36 //

37 MR. HANSON: Yeah, my name is John Hanson, I'm from  
38 Alakanuk.

39 //

40 MR. McCANN: My name is Billy McCann from Bethel. I  
41 used to be -- live in Napaskiak, but I live in Bethel now.

42 //

43 MR. L. WILDE: Lester Wilde, Hooper Bay.

44 //

45 MR. ANDREW: John Andrew, coordinator for Fish and  
46 Wildlife out of Bethel and Kwethluk.

47 //

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Harry Wilde from Mountain Village.

49 //

50 MR. NICK: Robert Nick from Nunapitchuk.

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1 MR. NICOLAI: Ilarion Nicolai from Kwethluk.

2 //

3 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church from Quinhagak.

4 //

5 MR. CHARLES: James Charles from Tuntutuliak.

6 //

7 MR. TIKIUN: Thad Tikiun from Bethel.

8 //

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The rest of our board, they're doing  
10 other duties and responsibilities. They couldn't be here, so  
11 we excused them this morning. And also the staff, we'd like to  
12 go ahead, tell us who you are and where you're from.

13 //

14 MS. MCCLENAHAN: I'm Pat McClenahan.....

15 //

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maybe it's very important to us is  
17 your responsibility also. Uh-hum.

18 //

19 MS. MCCLENAHAN: Okay. I'm Pat McClenahan. I'm the  
20 staff anthropologist. I work in the Office of Subsistence  
21 Management for Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage, and I am  
22 responsible for developing analyses for customary and  
23 traditional use. I also am the Section 809 coordinator. I  
24 work on cooperative agreement with villages and with  
25 associations.

26 //

27 MR. FISHER: Dave Fisher with Fish and Wildlife  
28 Service, Anchorage, Subsistence Office. I'm the wildlife  
29 biologist for this region, and I'm also responsible for --  
30 along with Pat with preparing staff analysis for proposals.

31 //

32 COURT REPORTER: Meredith Downing, the court reporting  
33 taking this hearing, and hopefully keeping the sound system up  
34 to where you can hear it, and not feedback.

35 //

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We also have Office of Subsistence  
37 Management here?

38 //

39 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

40 //

41 MR. T. WILD: Terry Wild, Subsistence Management, and  
42 travel for the regional council. (Indiscernible, away from  
43 microphone) and try and answer your questions the best I can,  
44 and help you if you need it.

45 //

46 COURT REPORTER: And I cannot hear anybody from the  
47 back, so when you do speak, please come up to the microphone.

48 //

49 MR. BRELSFORD: I'm Taylor Brelsford, and I work for  
50 the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage, and my

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1 responsibility is to work with the regional councils statewide  
2 to make sure (Indiscernible, away from microphone).

3 //

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And also we have Yukon Delta, Togiak  
5 National Wildlife Refuge. I think start out with Mike Riorden?

6 //

7 MR. RIORDEN: I'm Mike Riorden. I'm the manager of the  
8 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The Togiak team won't be  
9 here until afternoon. (Indiscernible, away from microphone)

10 //

11 MR. KOVACH: My name is Steve Kovach, I'm a wildlife  
12 biologist (Indiscernible, away from microphone) on the refuge.

13 //

14 MR. HUNT: My name is Chuck Hunt. I'm the native  
15 contact representative. Also interpreter here, plus several  
16 other responsibilities.

17 //

18 MR. NICK: My name is Alex Nick, I'm with Yukon Delta.

19 //

20 MR. SEAVOY: My name's Roger Seavoy, I work for the  
21 Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Indiscernible, away from  
22 microphone).

23 //

24 MR. MENARD: I'm Jim Menard with the Alaska Department  
25 of Fish and Game (Indiscernible, away from microphone).

26 //

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And also we have State of Alaska, Mike  
28 Coffing.

29 //

30 MR. COFFING: My name is Mike Coffing (Indiscernible,  
31 away from microphone).

32 //

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We never have our KYUK broadcaster yet  
34 here this morning, and maybe a lot of people know about --  
35 maybe you should.....

36 //

37 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, I could report on  
38 broadcasting on KYUK. We have tried in the last year to  
39 rebroadcast the Y-K Council meeting so that people in the  
40 villages could hear. About a month ago John and I began to  
41 talk with the KYUK management, but as many of you know, they've  
42 had a lot of difficulty with staffing and funding, and we were  
43 not able to arrange for broadcast from Quinhagak this time. We  
44 hope that by the winter meeting everything will be settled at  
45 the radio station, and we will be able to have somebody on site  
46 to broadcast the meeting for us. But during this September  
47 meeting, it was simply not possible for us to make the  
48 arrangements. We will continue to try on that though.

49 //

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. And we also have from

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1 AVCP, will you give us your name and your responsibility at  
2 AVCP?

3 //

4 MR. ANDREW: Still on introduction.

5 //

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Introduction, right.

7 //

8 MS. SPARCK: I'm Michelle Sparck, AVCP Resources  
9 Specialist, and I just came this morning to participate  
10 (Indiscernible -- simultaneous speech) regional management.

11 //

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Qu yana. Okay. I think we've got just  
13 about everyone here.

14 //

15 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

16 //

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No. Ida, we're introducing people and  
18 their responsibility. Will you give us your name and your  
19 responsibility on the State side?

20 //

21 MS. ALEXIE: My name is Ida Alexie, I'm with the  
22 Department of Fish and Game, Boards (Indiscernible, away from  
23 microphone).

24 //

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, qu yana. Did I miss anybody  
26 here?

27 //

28 MR. ANDREW: Roger Seavoy.

29 //

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Who?

31 //

32 MR. ANDREW: Roger.

33 //

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Roger?

35 //

36 MR. SEAVOY: I introduced myself just before, I didn't  
37 (Indiscernible, away from microphone). I'm Roger Seavoy from  
38 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (Indiscernible, away  
39 from microphone).

40 //

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Yeah, thank you. Did I miss  
42 anyone here?

43 //

44 If it's not, we'll continuation of our agenda here.  
45 Five, review and adoption of agenda. Tab B there, you could  
46 find agenda. I think it's -- we've got revised on agenda. Use  
47 the revised agenda here.

48 //

49 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

50 //

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1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah?

2 //

3 MR. NICK: I move that we adopt the revised agenda  
4 before us.

5 //

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor to adopt  
7 revised agenda before us. If there's any second?

8 //

9 MR. CHARLES: Second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

10 //

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Second by James Charles. Any  
12 discussion to new agenda, revised agenda?

13 //

14 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I just simply have a question.  
15 On item nine on the agenda, there's an opportunity for  
16 proposals to come from the floor, and as this meeting was  
17 scheduled to be held in Quinhagak, but it's -- we're holding it  
18 here in Bethel, I just wanted to make certain that the public  
19 knows of the change of the meeting place? Maybe the radio  
20 station so the villages nearby would have an opportunity to  
21 come and listen, and others in Bethel may wish to come to the  
22 meeting.

23 //

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Taylor, will you respond to that?

25 //

26 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, we have tried to  
27 telephone the radio station to make an announcement, a public  
28 service announcement today and tomorrow so that people in  
29 Bethel could stop in and participate in the meeting here. And  
30 I understand the radio is not yet broadcasting this morning, so  
31 the announcement has not yet gone out, but we'll stay after  
32 that.

33 //

34 As far as the villages go, we did mail out the proposal  
35 notice, the call for proposals to about 2500 people on our  
36 mailing list, including all of the village councils, and I  
37 think we may want to do some additional follow up in Quinhagak,  
38 because the meeting was originally scheduled there. I think  
39 John and Willard might be able to follow up and ensure that  
40 anybody who was thinking about a proposal in Quinhagak could  
41 still put it in. The deadline is October 23rd, so we still  
42 have several weeks for proposals to be submitted. Thank you.

43 //

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion on revised agenda?

45 //

46 MR. L. WILDE: Question.

47 //

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been called for. All  
49 who favor to accept revised agenda say aye?

50 //

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2 //

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, same sign?

4 //

5 (No opposing votes.)

6 //

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Revised agenda is  
8 accepted. We continue our revised agenda, on six, review and  
9 adoption of minutes of March 3 and 4. I'll ask Andrew to take  
10 this minutes.

11 //

12 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reading of  
13 minutes, I'll just read it, revised down to a short summary to  
14 save time. Because all these minutes -- for reading, all  
15 minutes are in here, and anybody that wants a full reading of  
16 the transcripts could ask me or Taylor to get it from our  
17 Anchorage office for the full reading of the transcripts of the  
18 Bethel meeting of March 3 and 4. And what I have in here is  
19 under Tab C you've got the minutes of March 3. (In Yup'ik)

20 //

21 The meeting was called to order at 2:00 o'clock by  
22 Chairman Wilde. Roll call. Joe Lomack started the invocation.  
23 A quorum was established. He said that there were a lot of  
24 people present at the meeting, and there were people from the  
25 villages present. The court reporter was present and also  
26 Chuck Hunt was translating the meeting. February 5 and 6 were  
27 reviewed, and there were eight people that testified.

28 //

29 There was a meeting, a public hearing on Federal  
30 Subsistence Fisheries Management, and there were five people  
31 that testified. And then on Wednesday there was also a  
32 continuation of the discussion on fisheries. David O. David  
33 made a motion to make sure that the public was educated on the  
34 proposed rule. Paul John seconded the motion, and the motion  
35 carried.

36 //

37 After that the proposals were reviewed. Number one was  
38 Proposal Number 62 from Akiak and Akiachak on the c&t  
39 determination of caribou, and the Council voted in favor. Also  
40 Proposal Number 63. David O. David made a motion, and the  
41 motion was passed by a vote of nine yeas, one excused, one  
42 absent.

43 //

44 Next worked on Proposals 55, 58, 59, 60, and sixty- --  
45 75 proposal. Lester Wilde moved and James Charles second to  
46 support these proposals.

47 //

48 RFR Number 97-12 was worked on. This was toward  
49 Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay. And a motion was made by  
50 David O. David to accept this RFR Number 97-12. It was



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1 accepted, and the vote was nine yeas, one excused, and one  
2 absent.  
3 //

4 After lunch they worked on the remaining proposals.  
5 There was work on c&t for black bear. And John Burr from the  
6 Sport Fishing Division updated the Council on the status of use  
7 of rod and reel for subsistence fisheries during the summer.  
8 State wanted to come up with a plan to work with AVCP in the  
9 area of sport and subsistence fishers in trying to resolve and  
10 improve the issue.  
11 //

12 Proposals 51, 52, 53, 54, 64, 65, 66, 67. They wanted  
13 to work on this, but it was deferred until more complete  
14 reviews and the planned Akiak and Akiachak study can be  
15 completed. David O. David made a motion to support those  
16 proposals, seconded by Billy McCann. Motion passed with a vote  
17 of eight yeas, one absent and two excused.  
18 //

19 No action was taken on Proposals 56 and 57.  
20 //

21 Sixty-eight was considered moot as a result of  
22 Council's action on Proposal 67.  
23 //

24 On Proposals 69, 70, 71, and 72, there was a motion by  
25 Lester Wilde, seconded by Ilarion Nicolai. Motion passed eight  
26 yeas, two excused and one absent.  
27 //

28 In the old business, there was a discussion on broad  
29 head whitefish, king salmon, and moose in the Lower Yukon.  
30 Myron Nanning spoke for AVCP and reported to the -- on the  
31 recent Board of Fish actions, as well as working together,  
32 provided that budgets were made available. A motion was to  
33 include suggestions in annual report to the Board, and was  
34 supported by the Council of seven -- a vote of seven yeas, one  
35 abstain, two excused and one absent.  
36 //

37 ADF&G coordination was discussed and presented by Myron  
38 Nanning. And emphasizing the importance of Regional Council  
39 representatives having equal access to Staff Committee  
40 meetings, consistent with the efforts of establish tribal  
41 co-management. Johnny Thompson made a motion, seconded by  
42 Billy McCann, agreed with the Staff Committee recommendation  
43 except that Regional Council should be invited to the same  
44 status -- on the same status as ADF&G. Motion passed, seven  
45 yeas, three excused, and one absent.  
46 //

47 Mike Rearden reported on the Migratory Bird Treaty  
48 Protocol Amendment for establishing subsistence hunting of  
49 migratory birds during the closed season between March 10 and  
50 September 1st. They will continue on the current Goose

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1 Management Plan. And need to establish a management body in  
2 place, and it could not be the Council.

3 //

4 On the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, there was no  
5 representative, but they have a moose hunt in 17(A) since 1980.  
6 There were 44 permits issued, and 15 animals were harvested.

7 //

8 ADF&G. Charlie Burkey, fisheries biologist, reported  
9 the commercial fisheries report on the Kuskokwim. His report  
10 gave a description and overview of the Kuskokwim area salmon  
11 fishery. The over-all goal of the Kuskokwim area management  
12 program was to manage subsis- -- salmon runs for sustained  
13 yield under the policy set forth by the Alaska Board of  
14 Fisheries.

15 //

16 Roger Seavoy, area biologist, was not there. Ida  
17 Alexie, State coordinator was attending a meeting in Nome.

18 //

19 Mike Coffing, subsistence division, continues to work  
20 with Fish and Wildlife Service and with AVCP as well as  
21 villages and advisory committees on projects. The comments  
22 favor cooperative projects like brown bear, Kilbuck caribou and  
23 moose management plan. Wanted to continue that kind of effort.  
24 The project he was working on is gathering seal and sea lion  
25 harvest information with the villages of Quinhagak, Hooper Bay  
26 and Emmonak. State Board of Fisheries has a c&t determination  
27 for all fresh water fish in the region, both the Kuskokwim and  
28 the Yukon area, Game Management Unit 18. The Board adopted a  
29 positive finding for marine fish and also shellfish in both  
30 drainages.

31 //

32 At the meeting on October 7th, adjourned at 5:15 p.m.  
33 Mr. Chairman?

34 //

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Quyana.

36 //

37 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, question. Robert has a  
38 question on the minutes.

39 //

40 Under report given by Mr. Riorden on the migratory bird  
41 amendment, there's a sentence that says a management body is  
42 needed to be in place, that it will not be this Council. So I  
43 guess my question is on kind of an update. Is that -- what is  
44 that management body going to be? And where are we as far as  
45 establishing that management body?

46 //

47 MR. RIORDEN: Mr Chairman, Mike Riorden. When we get  
48 to my section on the report of the refuge manager, I'll be.....

49 //

50 MR. NICK: Oh, okay.

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1 MR. RIORDEN: .....discussing that, even though it's  
2 not written down, and we forgot to put it in there, but I'll be  
3 discussing the management body.

4 //

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mike.

6 //

7 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I have one other comment in  
8 the minutes, on -- under old business, there was a  
9 recommendation or a vote taken by the Council to have the  
10 Council invited, and I guess Staff meetings, Committee  
11 meetings. And my question is are we -- is that happening?

12 //

13 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, thank you, Taylor  
14 Brelsford. I can mention the progress on ADF&G and Council  
15 participation in the Staff Committee meetings. At the time of  
16 the winter meeting, the Board had adopted a policy that ADF&G  
17 and the regional councils would participate in the Staff  
18 Committee meetings on a case-by-case or as-needed basis. Not a  
19 standing invitation to the ADF&G coordination liaison  
20 specialist, this is Elizabeth Andrews that I'm referring to.  
21 She is the staffer for ADF&G. Not a standing invitation to  
22 ADF&G nor a standing invitation to the regional council chairs.  
23 These preparatory meetings before the Board, the Federal Board  
24 public meeting, and instead, it would be on a case-by-case  
25 basis.

26 //

27 So several times this summer the Board met for an  
28 emergency action, or a special action, and they follow that  
29 very policy. On key difficult issues, ADF&G was invited to  
30 participate, and the Regional Council chair from the Kotzebue  
31 area in this one particular issue, that Willie Goodwin also  
32 participated in the Staff Committee meeting.

33 //

34 So the policy that's mentioned in the minutes is still  
35 the working policy, and on for the future, we would expect that  
36 for some issues, your chairman would be invited at the same  
37 time as the ADF&G liaison staff. And on some issues, the Board  
38 would not make that invitation if it is not necessary.

39 //

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion to our minutes?

41 //

42 MR. NICOLAI: Mr. Chairman?

43 //

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ilarion?

45 //

46 MR. NICOLAI: On adjournment, as I recall, on the last  
47 day I had an appointment at the hospital, and I was excused, so  
48 I didn't second that motion to adjourn. Somebody else did.

49 //

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We have -- need to be

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1 correction on adjourn. (In Yup'ik)

2 //

3 MR. NICOLAI: I wouldn't know. I got -- I went down  
4 and.....

5 //

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It wasn't you?

7 //

8 MR. NICOLAI: No.

9 //

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We have a little bit problem. Do you  
11 know who seconded that.....

12 //

13 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I believe it was Billy  
14 McCann that second to adjourn.

15 //

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Thank you. Bill? (In Yup'ik)

17 //

18 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik) Last meeting?

19 //

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

21 //

22 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

23 //

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, you did.

25 //

26 INTERPRETER: Billy McCann says that he believes he  
27 seconded the motion to adjourn.

28 //

29 MR. McCANN: What's wrong with it.

30 //

31 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

32 //

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Make it under adjourn, instead  
34 of Ilarion Nicolai, it should be Bill McCann.

35 //

36 MR. ANDREW: Quyana.

37 //

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, that's a correction. Any  
39 more.....

40 //

41 MR. ANDREW: Corrections?

42 //

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: .....corrections and additional to  
44 our minutes? More discussions?

45 //

46 MR. NICK: I'd just make one observation, Mr. Chairman,  
47 I note that at the last meeting there was nobody from Bureau of  
48 Land Management, and in the introductions, I noted that there's  
49 nobody from Bureau of Land Management again today. So -- and  
50 in my understanding from last night's workshop on the five

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1 agencies that are involved, Bureau of Land Management is part  
2 of the management group.

3 //

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Terry, respond?

5 //

6 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, just a quick response.  
7 Taylor Brelsford again. Jeff Denton is the representative from  
8 the BLM, the Bureau of Land Management, and he has several  
9 parts of the state to work with. So I think he's only come to  
10 the Y-K Council meeting times. I do remember one meeting in  
11 this building quite a while -- two years ago perhaps when Jeff  
12 was with us. So -- often he prepares a written update, and I  
13 think this time it slipped through. I know we contacted Jeff  
14 and asked for written updates. For example, he wasn't able to  
15 go to the Nome meeting of Seward Peninsula Council, but he had  
16 a little, one-page update on some recent survey activities in  
17 the Unalakleet area. So I think when he has news to report,  
18 he's pretty good about making a little summary, if he couldn't  
19 come himself. So I guess we would continue to do our best to  
20 invite Jeff, make sure that he knows of the meeting times, and  
21 if he has any material to present, he could write it down, and  
22 then we can present it for him. He is -- the Bureau of Land  
23 Management is a partner in the Federal Subsistence Program, and  
24 we need to try and keep information coming for the Y-K region.  
25 //

26 If you look at the map up here, you'll see that most of  
27 the land, the federal lands in the Y-K region are from the  
28 refuge, from the National Wildlife Refuge System, Yukon-  
29 Kuskokwim Delta or Togiak Refuge. There are some small areas  
30 of BLM land, so we need to kind of stay current with BLM  
31 programs in this area, and we'll continue to try and take care  
32 of that.

33 //

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Taylor. Any more  
35 correction, additional or discussions on our last meeting  
36 agenda -- I mean, the minutes?

37 //

38 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, Kwigillingok is spelled  
39 wrong on the meeting minutes, too.

40 //

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: On our last minutes, Kwigillingok is  
42 spelled wrong.

43 //

44 MR. NICK: Cross out the "w". So it's corrected. Any  
45 more discussion on our minutes?

46 //

47 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, James Charles makes a  
48 motion adopt the last meeting minutes.

49 //

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James Charles make a motion to accept

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1 the last meeting minutes with their corrections. If there's  
2 any second?

3 //

4 MR. NICK: Second.

5 //

6 MR. L. WILDE: Second.

7 //

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by.....

9 //

10 MR. NICK: Me.

11 //

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: .....Robert Nick. Any more discussion  
13 to our last meeting minutes?

14 //

15 MR. CHARLES: Question.

16 //

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been called for. All  
18 who favor accepting last meeting minutes say aye?

19 //

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21 //

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no?

23 //

24 (No opposing votes.)

25 //

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion. Our last meeting minutes are  
27 accepted.

28 //

29 We will continuation on our agenda. Seven, election of  
30 officers. We will ask Chairman Andrew presiding on election.

31 //

32 INTERPRETER: John Andrew will be presiding for the  
33 election of officers of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and  
34 Sergeant at Arms.

35 //

36 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, quyana, Mr. Chairman.

37 //

38 MR. ANDREW: Office of chair serves a one-year term,  
39 may serve more than one year, conducts the Regional Council  
40 meetings, attends and represents the Regional Council at  
41 meetings of the Board. He's also.....

42 //

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before you start, on your packet, D.  
44 D, you could find it there.

45 //

46 MR. ANDREW: .....a voting member of the Council.

47 //

48 INTERPRETER: So if you have a book, it's under D.

49 //

50 MR. ANDREW: He signs reports, correspondences, meeting

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1 minutes and other documents for external distribution. He says  
2 that during the time that the election of the chairman, he  
3 presides, and as soon as the Chairman is elected, then the  
4 chairman takes over. Number one. The floor is now open for  
5 nominations for the Chair.

6 //

7 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I nominate.....

8 //

9 MR. HANSON: Mr. Chairman, I nominate Harry Wilde for  
10 Chair.

11 //

12 MR. NICK: Second.

13 //

14 MR. ANDREW: Harry Wilde has been nominated. (In  
15 Yup'ik)

16 //

17 MR. NICK: Second.

18 //

19 MR. ANDREW: Robert.

20 //

21 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

22 //

23 MR. ANDREW: Any more nominations?

24 //

25 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I move that the nominations be  
26 closed.

27 //

28 MR. ANDREW: Robert moves that nominations be closed.

29 //

30 MR. HANSON: Second.

31 //

32 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

33 //

34 MR. HANSON: Second.

35 //

36 MR. BRELSFORD: It's now a motion,.....

37 //

38 MR. ANDREW: Yeah.

39 //

40 MR. BRELSFORD: .....all in favor of closing the  
41 nominations.

42 //

43 MR. ANDREW: All in favor.

44 //

45 MR. BRELSFORD: Of closing the nominations.

46 //

47 MR. ANDREW: All in favor of closing the nominations  
48 process?

49 //

50 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, point of order, all

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1 nominations to close needs to be voted on before we continue.  
2 So if you can call for a vote on the nominations to close?

3 //

4 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

5 //

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7 //

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Abstain.

9 //

10 INTERPRETER: Nominations has been closed.

11 //

12 MR. ANDREW: Well, you're the Chair again.

13 Congratulations, Mr. Chairman. (In Yup'ik)

14 //

15 INTERPRETER: Harry Wilde, Sr., has been nominated for  
16 the chairman of the Subsistence Regional Council in the Y-K  
17 Delta.

18 //

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. He thanks everybody for  
20 having nominated and selected him for chairman, and he will try  
21 to continue to do his best. I'll do my best as been doing it,  
22 I will try to serve as the Chair.

23 //

24 At this time we go down to vice chairman. Nomination  
25 is now open for vice chairman.

26 //

27 MR. NICOLAI: Mr Chairman, a motion that we retain the  
28 previous officers for another year.

29 //

30 MR. L. WILDE: I second the motion, Mr. Chairman, and  
31 ask.....

32 //

33 MR. NICOLAI: Unanimous consent.

34 //

35 MR. L. WILDE: .....for unanimous consent.

36 //

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor with  
38 Ilarion and second by Lester to retain the rest of the officers  
39 for another year.

40 //

41 MR. L. WILDE: And, Mr. Chairman, I ask for unanimous  
42 consent.

43 //

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester Wilde asks for unanimous  
45 consent. Who make a motion to accept various officers for one  
46 more year. All those in favor say aye?

47 //

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49 //

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no?



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1 (No opposing votes.)

2 //

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. The various officers  
4 are extended for one more year. Our coordinator, will you tell  
5 us who are the rest of the officers at this time? We would  
6 like to.....

7 //

8 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, thank you. (In Yup'ik) The  
9 Chair is Harry Wilde, the co-chair is Paul John, the secretary  
10 is Fritz George, and sergeant-at-arms is Paul Manumik, Sr. And  
11 the rest of our members are Robert Nick, Willard Church --  
12 Willard is a new member -- Billy McCann, James Charles, Johnny  
13 Thompson, Lester Wilde, and two new alternates. The one for  
14 the Yukon is John Hanson to our right, and Thadius Tikiun, Jr.  
15 on the far left.

16 //

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana.

18 //

19 MR. ANDREW: Welcome.

20 //

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'd like to make a.....

22 //

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I think we're going to have a  
24 ten minutes break, and make sure that someone call KYUK that  
25 we're having a meeting here, and also we have to let Quinhagak  
26 know what the problem happening, and we have to let them know.  
27 So at this time we're going to break, a ten minutes break.

28 //

29 (Off record)

30 //

31 (On record)

32 //

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before our next agenda number eight,  
34 I'm going to appoint interim sergeant at arms. I'm going to  
35 appoint Bill McCann for interim sergeant at arms for this  
36 meeting. Bill?

37 //

38 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

39 //

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So he accept.

41 //

42 MR. McCANN: Get out of here.

43 //

44 (Laughter)

45 //

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda, number eight,  
47 floor open to public comments on the Federal Subsistence  
48 Management Program. This opportunity will be continued  
49 throughout our meeting. If you have filled out or if you want  
50 to testify, please fill out a testifier form. They're back

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1 there on the table. Also, Council members in the area of  
2 village resource concern. Those people -- we don't have any  
3 hardly public here in our meeting, because a lot of people  
4 didn't know where we have our meeting. And hopefully now that  
5 announcement has been done. Lester?

6 //

7 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, that was a concern that I  
8 was asked to bring up. We -- the elders of Hooper Bay pretty  
9 much know the answer, but they wanted to confirm that the --  
10 there was a lot of pollack and a lot of flounders and bottom  
11 fish coming -- washing up on the beaches, and they thought that  
12 it might be due to the warm weather, and they just need the  
13 confirmation from one of the biologists to state that that's  
14 what it was -- that's what it is, because there is a lot of  
15 bottom fish that are coming up, washing up on the beaches.  
16 Steve, you've got -- or one of the fishermen right there got an  
17 idea?

18 //

19 MR. RIORDEN: Mr. Chairman?

20 //

21 COURT REPORTER: Mr. Riorden?

22 //

23 MR. RIORDEN: Oh. I'm certainly not an authority on  
24 that, but we also noticed that on Nunivak Island, not so much  
25 this summer as we did last summer. During the severe seabird  
26 die-offs that occurred the summer previous, one of our  
27 biologists saw literally tons of flounders and some other small  
28 fish washed up on the beaches on the southside of Nunivak  
29 Island. And the assumption was that because of warm water  
30 conditions from the El Nino weather phenomenon, that this is  
31 just another one of the things that occurred. But I can't  
32 certainly say that that is the cause of it, but that is the  
33 assumption that we made at the time.

34 //

35 MR. L. WILDE: Is there a way to find out what exactly  
36 is the biological method or.....

37 //

38 MR. RIORDEN: You know, a lot of times it's an after-  
39 the-fact thing, such as it was with the seabirds. We collected  
40 seabirds from a lot of areas in the Bering Sea and sent them in  
41 for analysis and in every case that I'm aware of, the result or  
42 the reason that those birds died was as a result of starvation.  
43 And the assumption was there again that the warm waters had  
44 made the fish that the fish feed on go to different levels  
45 perhaps, maybe go deeper in the ocean in the Bering Sea so that  
46 the birds could not reach them to feed. So perhaps the warm  
47 waters also affected fish in the same way, but I don't know  
48 that anybody has studied that aspect of it. Maybe the Fish and  
49 Game guys might have some more information on that than we do.

50 //

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1 MR. L. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.

2 //

3 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I have a comment.....

4 //

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

6 //

7 MR. NICK: .....similar to what Lester brought out.

8 //

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert, go ahead.

10 //

11 MR. NICK: Undoubtedly there is a high volume of  
12 fishing out in the Bering Sea, which they call a donut hole, by  
13 foreign fleets. Do they utilize the pollack, what is washing  
14 up?

15 //

16 MR. RIORDEN: Boy, I'm the wrong guy to ask about that.

17 //

18 MR. NICK: Could they be just throwing them overboard  
19 if they don't need it?

20 //

21 MR. RIORDEN: Well, Pollack generally are a targeted  
22 species in the Bering Sea, so I would doubt that they'd be.....

23 //

24 MR. NICK: Throw it over?

25 //

26 MR. RIORDEN: .....throwing pollack be. Yeah.

27 //

28 MR. NICK: Yeah.

29 //

30 MR. RIORDEN: Other fish are by-catch, but I'm not  
31 aware of them washing up on the beach.

32 //

33 MR. L. WILDE: There's a large number of young crabs  
34 washing up, too.

35 //

36 MR. RIORDEN: We noticed that at Nunivak, also. A lot  
37 of young crab on the beachline.

38 //

39 MR. HANSON: Mr. Chairman? Yeah, Mike, our elders  
40 where I come from don't mention no warm water. They -- I have  
41 never heard them say that the fish are dying off from warm  
42 waters. The birds, yeah, that's a different story. Seabirds.  
43 If it's too warm, the water is too warm, they'll die off,  
44 and.....

45 //

46 MR. RIORDEN: Uh-hum.

47 //

48 MR. HANSON: .....if their food isn't there, they'll  
49 die off. But on the fish that Lester is mentioning, pollack,  
50 flounder, crab, these draggers out in the Bering Sea and Gulf

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1 of Alaska, for years they have been dumping illegal caught  
2 fish, what they call illegal caught fish. And it's -- I think  
3 it's starting to catch up on them. Whatever they dump out  
4 there, the seals can't eat all of them, those are the ones that  
5 start floating up when the storm comes along and they wash up  
6 on the shore. And there's a tremendous, millions and millions  
7 of pounds of bottom fish that have been discharged out there.  
8 //

9 MR. RIORDEN: Uh-hum.  
10 //

11 MR. HANSON: And the elders, I agree with them. They  
12 always say if you waste fish out on the Bering Sea, even of  
13 it's salt water, they'll float up, and then once they float up,  
14 they'll washed on the shore. So with all them big draggers out  
15 around the donut hole and wherever they're dragging, they're --  
16 I guess most of the catch on dead fish would be them rather  
17 than the warm water that we always talk about in the ocean.  
18 //

19 MR. L. WILDE: One thing that we've noticed on those  
20 fish, they don't seem like they've been dead for any length of  
21 time, because looking at the gills, they don't seem like -- I  
22 don't know -- I'm used to living in fresh water system, but I  
23 don't know how much of that salt waters out there is affecting  
24 them. They look fairly fresh, just die off. They didn't look  
25 like there was anything that was over a week by looking at the  
26 gills.  
27 //

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before I ask Mike, I've got one more  
29 concern to say. Up in Koyukuk, I met one of the member of  
30 Yukon Drainage Fishermen Association. He told me that this  
31 summer they tried to dry fish, but that they were not able to  
32 do. I asked him why, and he said that there wasn't hardly  
33 enough fish, that there wasn't that many fish in the river.  
34 And also every time when they dry -- hang the fish up, the meat  
35 fell down and left the skin behind. He said that there's  
36 something that never happened before this summer. Their -- and  
37 their meat is just like mush (ph), more like -- that's what he  
38 explain. It's they could -- aren't able to cook, to boil it  
39 the way they used to, you know, because they would come to be  
40 just like watery meat. And that meat when they hang, they drop  
41 from the skin down to the floor. So shall I ask you if you  
42 have any more?  
43 //

44 MR. COFFING: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't have a lot of  
45 answers. I guess what I wanted to share with you is that this  
46 is the first -- I guess, and that's what the purpose of some of  
47 these meetings are, is for us not to be here to tell you what  
48 we know, but to come and listen to what you have to tell us,  
49 and this is the first I've heard about the problem with fish,  
50 so I'm glad I'm here.

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1           What I wanted to say is that -- well, I think what  
2 would be useful for us is if it would be possible is sometime  
3 after the meeting either before you go back, or when you get  
4 back is we'd like to get some people to contact you to find out  
5 more about what you're seeing, and what you're observing out  
6 there with fish die-offs along the coast here, because it's  
7 something that you're the eyes and ears that are out there.  
8 We're not out there. We want to learn more about it. Not that  
9 we're going to have answers for you, but the better  
10 documentation we can do in the Department and know, you know,  
11 if we're getting these reports not only on the Y-K Delta, but  
12 if they're happening other places, it might down the road mean  
13 something to us. So what I wanted to say is that what we'd  
14 like to do I think is to get some people that are  
15 biologist.....

16 //

17           MR. L. WILDE: In our booklets, or John has a number of  
18 all our phone numbers, you could get ahold of us.

19 //

20           MR. COFFING: Fine. Fine. Appreciate that, and  
21 appreciate your input this morning here.

22 //

23           Mr. Chairman, I did have a question specific to your  
24 comment. Was this problem with drying fish specific to only  
25 chinook salmon? Was it a problem with only chum salmon? Or  
26 was it several species of salmon?

27 //

28           CHAIRMAN WILDE: My understanding that those are chums.

29 //

30           MR. COFFING: Chums.

31 //

32           CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. (Affirmative)

33 //

34           MR. COFFING: Okay. Thank you.

35 //

36           CHAIRMAN WILDE: And also while we're talking about the  
37 council members and area of villages resource concern, I would  
38 like to ask -- I would like to ask you to go over with the  
39 problems of waste, of what's happening all that.

40 //

41           MR. RIORDEN: I've got some papers back here,  
42 Mr. Chairman.

43 //

44           CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we would appreciate it.

45 //

46           MR. ANDREW: Wanton waste.

47 //

48           CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

49 //

50           MR. RIORDEN: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the

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1 opportunity to talk about this to you. I've got a discussion  
2 here that I've worked up on some problems I've seen, some  
3 concerns I have, and then I've got some pictures that I'll pass  
4 around. And if they say a picture is worth 1,000 words, some  
5 of these pictures are worth 10,000 words. I think that it will  
6 illustrate what I'm concerned about, and make you think about  
7 the issue a little later, than it would perhaps just at this  
8 meeting.

9 //

10 I guess I'm testifying both as a representative of the  
11 Fish and Wildlife Service, as the refuge manager here, but also  
12 as a resident of the Delta, and as a parent of children that  
13 are growing up on the Delta and were born and raised here,  
14 because these are heartfelt concerns that I think a lot of you  
15 people will share with me once you hear what I'm talking about.

16 //

17 I was out with my young son and his friend here last  
18 week, and I was teaching them how to hunt ducks and geese, and  
19 kind of laughing at the mistakes they were making, the same  
20 ones we all made and our children made. And like Harry and I  
21 discussed yesterday, it's more fun to watch our children hunt  
22 and fish than it is to do it ourselves now that we've grown up  
23 and our kids are growing up. Their minds were active, and they  
24 were asking a lot of questions about ducks and geese and  
25 thinking about geese coming in over their decoys, and it made  
26 me stop and think about the future.

27 //

28 And I realized that probably the most important thing  
29 in our minds should be guaranteeing a quality life for our  
30 children, and it's more important than anything else we can do.  
31 We can sit here and discuss small issues. We can discuss the  
32 bureaucracy and the laws and the regulations, and those mean  
33 very little in the big picture, because in the big picture,  
34 what's important is if we fail to provide a quality future for  
35 our children and our grandchildren, then we've failed in the  
36 most important endeavor there is. I think all of you are  
37 either my age or older, and would agree with that.

38 //

39 I've known members of this Council, some of you for a  
40 long time, and some of them more just recently, but because of  
41 that, I have a deep respect for your abilities and your desires  
42 to do a good job. And I feel very confident that this Council  
43 and the make up that's here now can take some of these regional  
44 issues head on and provide responsible direction for  
45 subsistence management on the Delta. Some of these issues are  
46 very contentious, but my personal knowledge about most of you  
47 makes me feel that you're up to the task.

48 //

49 Over 25 years ago while I worked seasonally for Fish  
50 and Game, I did subsistence surveys on the Yukon River, and

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1 visited people like Harry Wilde, counted his fish and discussed  
2 the season's harvest, and I've visited many people in their  
3 fish camps, and was always impressed by the quality of those  
4 people, and the respect that they showed for the land and the  
5 fish and game that they harvested. Harry's commitment to this  
6 ethic is confirmed with the quality of his kids and the other  
7 young people he's taught. That's very apparent. He sets a  
8 good example for all of us in how he takes care of the animals  
9 that he catches, and he also makes it a point to teach other  
10 children about it.

11 //

12 Johnny Thompson isn't here today, but I've known him  
13 for over 25 years. In fact, he did the same job I was doing  
14 for several years before I did it. And I've been to his fish  
15 camp, and his home, and seen how he takes care of food, and how  
16 he takes care of things. And also he worked with my father  
17 when I was a young man, so I've known him a long time.

18 //

19 And also that's the same way with Paul Manumik on the  
20 Lower Yukon, I've known him for over 25 years, and have noticed  
21 how he staunchly had defended subsistence, and been very  
22 reasonable, and provided an example for his community.

23 //

24 I first met John Hanson when I went to Alakanuk to work  
25 for Fish and Game, and I'm sure he doesn't remember me from any  
26 of the other Fish and Game guys. We were just across the  
27 river, staying in the cannery house that's since washed into  
28 the river. And besides that, Johnny had a beautiful daughter,  
29 but I was too shy to go meet her, so I had to sit on the other  
30 side of the river. And -- but I do know that John has spent  
31 many years in public service on the Board of Game and other  
32 organizations, and his experience even as an alternate on this  
33 group will be very beneficial to this Council, and I really  
34 urge you to use his comprehension and his background to the  
35 best of your ability. He has a lot to offer.

36 //

37 And I worked with James Charles. He used to work for  
38 the refuge as a refuge information technician. He -- when he  
39 came to the job, he had the basic knowledge necessary to do it,  
40 and in his quiet way, he taught us a lot of things. He has a  
41 broad understanding of subsistence resources, and when we do  
42 these interviews for selecting people for this Council, he has  
43 the respect of a lot of people in this region. He's well known  
44 throughout the region.

45 //

46 Paul John isn't here today, but I need to mention him.  
47 Sometimes I think he probably thinks we don't listen to him,  
48 but he contributes a Yup'ik perspective to our meetings that is  
49 vital. For the most part we're dealing with Yup'ik hunters and  
50 it's very important that we communicate with them, and do it

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1 appropriately. A lot of times he'll tell us stories as his way  
2 of communicating concepts, and frequently after meetings we  
3 find ourselves discussing what he talked about, and I think  
4 that he's contributed to our understanding. He makes us think  
5 about things and realize there are different ways of looking at  
6 things and solving problems.

7 //

8 Lester Wilde lends a unique perspective of someone from  
9 the Delta that has lived in several places. He understands the  
10 needs of coastal people, as well as people interior, and has  
11 been a reasonable and staunch defender of subsistence. And his  
12 reasonable approach to problem-solving will continue to hold  
13 the Council in good stead.

14 //

15 Billy McCann is never afraid to give his viewpoint, and  
16 is well tapped in to what's going on in Bethel, the Delta's  
17 largest town. In many ways he represents a larger segment of  
18 the population on the Delta than any other member. Bethel is a  
19 growing community with probably 5,000 people now, something  
20 like that. So he holds a very important position, representing  
21 many of those people that are subsistence users.

22 //

23 Thadius Tikiun, when we were doing the interviews for  
24 putting people on this Council, was obviously somebody that --  
25 who has respect in this community, is somebody who knows what's  
26 going on, and gets out into the country. And his association  
27 with many people across the Delta will be beneficial to this  
28 Council.

29 //

30 Ilarion Nicolai has been a member of this Council for a  
31 long time now, and is a young representative. He's not very  
32 vocal, but that in itself shows his respect. Most of the  
33 people on this Council are elders, and -- but I've had one-on-  
34 one conversations with Ilarion, and because of that, I know he  
35 has the intelligence and reasonableness to help make very good  
36 decisions, and perhaps better represent the growing number of  
37 influential young people on the Delta.

38 //

39 Robert Nick and Willard Church are new members of this  
40 Council, but I expect that they will contribute from the very  
41 start. Very few people on the Delta have the extensive and  
42 broad background that Robert Nick has. I've had several  
43 conversations with him in the last couple years, and I know  
44 from those discussions that he has a lot of good, reasonable  
45 ideas that will help this Council.

46 //

47 I've only met Willard once, but that was at a meeting  
48 of the Kilbuck Caribou group, and I was struck by his  
49 reasonable, intelligent analysis of problems, and looking for  
50 rational ways to manage wildlife. And I think he has the



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1 potential to become a very influential leader. And with  
2 subsistence issues, I hope he continues to work with them.  
3 //

4 All in all, I think this Board at this point has the  
5 potential to be very influential, and help direct conservation  
6 efforts on this -- on the Delta. And there are challenges  
7 ahead of us. As we all know, many things are changing on the  
8 Delta.  
9 //

10 When I first knew several of you, there were no  
11 telephones on the Delta. The only communications we had were  
12 -- was via the network of Wien (ph) radios. I can still hear  
13 Tillie talking on the Wien radio talking to Don Hunter and  
14 other people on the Lower Yukon. Nowadays we use computers,  
15 faxes, telephones, and radios to communicate.  
16 //

17 I remember when the first 55 horsepower motor was  
18 installed on a boat in Emmonak. Everybody said it was way too  
19 powerful and dangerous, and sure enough, within a few weeks the  
20 young man that owned it died when his boat hit the river bank.  
21 Most people still use 18 or 25 horse motors on homemade wooden  
22 boats. Not many people had very large motors then, but now we  
23 them up to and beyond 200 horsepower. And factory-made  
24 aluminum and fiberglass boats, we're reaching much further,  
25 we're going a lot faster than we ever used to.  
26 //

27 I remember the shock we all felt when a young man  
28 committed suicide in a village 25 years ago. Two weeks ago  
29 there were two suicides in Bethel, and the public hardly  
30 noticed.  
31 //

32 Two weeks -- let's see. It used to be many villages --  
33 the kids would be out playing in the dirt, talking in Yup'ik.  
34 And nowadays many of them are staying home watching TV and  
35 trying to be like the people they see in far away places.  
36 //

37 I remember the shame people felt when a young unmarried  
38 girl had a baby. Now it's so common that we don't even pay  
39 attention.  
40 //

41 Things are changing, and they're changing fast. And I  
42 think all of you have been around long enough to recognize  
43 that.  
44 //

45 And you're probably beginning to wonder where I'm going  
46 with all this. But I'm reminding you of these things for a  
47 reason. We're all here because we have an interest in assuring  
48 that our resources are conserved for future generations. I  
49 want my sons and daughter to be able to hunt, fish and enjoy  
50 wildlife in the land as I have been fortunate to, and I'm sure

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1 you feel the same way about your families and community  
2 members.  
3 //

4 Subsistence use of wildlife is more than just food for  
5 the table. It's a healthy lifestyle that gives people self-  
6 respect and makes them feel good about themselves. My wife is  
7 Yup'ik, therefore my children are Yup'ik, and we want them to  
8 understand the importance of respecting wildlife, and feel the  
9 closeness to nature that's so part -- so much a part of Yup'ik  
10 values.  
11 //

12 But some people's attitudes and values are changing,  
13 and there are those within our communities that endanger those  
14 values that we feel are most important. We often think it's  
15 those from outside that bring the greatest danger to our ways  
16 of life, but there are also many dangers from within. And  
17 those people are affecting the value system that's so important  
18 to traditional Yup'ik people, and others that respect wildlife.  
19 //

20 I want to relate several short stories to you.  
21 //

22 Three years ago on a mountain airstrip east of Bethel,  
23 Fish and Wildlife Protection officers, the game warden, cited a  
24 man for completely wasting five caribou. He left them where  
25 they laid, where he shot them, because he didn't want to carry  
26 them the half mile to the air strip from which he shot them.  
27 He went down to the airstrip and shot three more animals, and  
28 those he saved, because they were right on the airstrip. Was  
29 this a trophy hunter from outside of the region? Nope. He was  
30 an adult Yup'ik male originally from the coast, but now  
31 residing in Bethel.  
32 //

33 An adult Yup'ik man from a Yukon village shot a young  
34 bull moose illegally this last July. He left the entire neck  
35 and backbone with the meat attached laying in the field where  
36 he shot the animal. He put the rest in his mukteevik (ph), and  
37 left it there for several days until it rotted in the warm  
38 temperature. He didn't share the meat. And when the game  
39 warden went and searched the mukteevik, there wasn't any edible  
40 meat remaining. It had all rotted on the bone.  
41 //

42 Eight brown bears have been shot and left to rot on the  
43 sandbars of the Goodnews River this summer. In one case, a  
44 bear was shot in the spine and left crawling on his two front  
45 legs, because his hind legs wouldn't work. He finally drowned  
46 when he was trying to get out of the river.  
47 //

48 In August a man from another village confessed to  
49 killing several cow moose, leaving one to waste, and then  
50 killing a brown bear on the way home, from which he kept the

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1 claws and the gall bladder and left the rest to rot.

2 //

3 In another case, several young men shot a cow moose,  
4 and when her calf was swimming the river, trying to get away,  
5 they shot it in the back playfully at close range with a  
6 shotgun. The calf died on the river bank. Both the cow and  
7 the calf were left where they were and went to waste entirely.

8 //

9 With the arrival of caribou near the Kuskokwim River in  
10 the last few years, there have been many cases, most of the  
11 people weren't apprehended, but caribou were butchered, and  
12 then only the choicest meat taken, and the rest left to spoil.  
13 In one case, a hunter told how he and three other young men  
14 from this region had killed several dozen caribou, had taken  
15 only the hind legs for the choicest meat, and left the rest to  
16 rot and be eaten by foxes and ravens.

17 //

18 This last spring, employees of the refuge saw and  
19 photographed a large pile of rotting pike in a local village  
20 dump.

21 //

22 A couple of hunters in another village shot a cow moose  
23 that fell into the water. They felt it would be a lot of work  
24 to remove it from the water, so they just left it. You'll see  
25 pictures of those in here.

26 //

27 In recent years, I've seen seals rotting on the banks  
28 of coastal villages. In one case, it was nine eselvik (ph)  
29 that were killed in the fall and left rotting until spring.  
30 I've seen beluga whales with the mungtuk (ph) removed, some of  
31 the meat left to rot. I've seen piles of meat tossed away in  
32 village dumps in the spring, and I've seen fish and waterfowl  
33 left to rot in the bottoms of boats, and in one case thrown  
34 into a dumpsters. I have pictures in here of that.

35 //

36 At public meetings on the Delta, it's common to hear  
37 people say, we don't waste. We use everything we take. I used  
38 to agree, but now when I hear it, I bow my head in shame,  
39 because it is not true. Surely, most people on the Delta use  
40 what they take. I want to make that clear, most people on the  
41 Delta use everything they take, and they're very respectful of  
42 the wildlife. But this growing group of residents that waste  
43 the wildlife they kill is like a cancer. And if it is not  
44 stopped, soon the people on the Delta will be looked upon as  
45 wasteful, and their activities will destroy the hunting  
46 opportunities for responsible people. I've seen that happen.

47 //

48 When I lived in Kotzebue, a young man from a local  
49 village slaughtered 14 caribou, checked them for fatness, and  
50 took only the best animal he could find. The rest he left to

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1 waste. When I was up there, that's all people from out of the  
2 region could remember was that people in that region were  
3 wasteful. The majority of the people weren't, but that's what  
4 they remembered.

5 //

6 And I know it's risky to even discuss this in public  
7 meetings, but if we don't, it will be discussed elsewhere and  
8 there will be little sympathy for any of our concerns in this  
9 region. The leadership of you on the Council is needed to stop  
10 this problem. You are all responsible, and I know you share  
11 the disgust I feel for this waste and disrespect of wildlife.  
12 Teaching ethics is the responsibility of all adults, and it  
13 appears that this is not happening in some cases.

14 //

15 We have regulations that permit the harvest of bull  
16 moose only in the fall, and there's a reason for that. If a  
17 cow is allowed to live, within ten years her offspring could  
18 produce as many as 80 moose. If she's killed, that eliminates  
19 the potential for 80 more moose to be in the environment for  
20 everybody to hunt. That means you and me, your children and  
21 our grandchildren will have 80 less moose to harvest when  
22 somebody kills a cow moose. And yet how many of us have just  
23 sat quietly when our neighbor came home with a cow moose in the  
24 boat or sled? I, for one, have done that. I've been at home  
25 when my in-laws brought home a cow moose in past years. I  
26 haven't done it lately, because of the position I'm in. But I  
27 -- and I never said anything. And I think most of us have  
28 probably been in that situation at one time or another.

29 //

30 I often hear people say, well, that's law enforcement's  
31 job to do something about that. There aren't enough law  
32 enforcement guys to even begin to do that job on the Delta.  
33 It's our job.

34 //

35 Who are the violators hurting? They're hurting us.  
36 They're hurting you, your family, and the rest of the people in  
37 the village, because of this poaching of cow moose. There are  
38 very few moose along the Kuskokwim River downriver from  
39 Kalskag. Every cow moose that ventures into this area gets  
40 killed.

41 //

42 This year the Lower Yukon villages asked for an  
43 extension of the moose season on the Lower Yukon. I think we  
44 would have loved to have done that. People needed it this  
45 year. The fish didn't show up, a lot of people needed the  
46 meat. But the fact was, poachers had already killed enough  
47 cows and calves that it was hurting the population, and  
48 continued hunting would have hurt it even more.

49 //

50 It's not all bad news. We continue to see very many

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1 ethical hunters that legally kill animals and utilize every  
2 edible part of the animal. More and more people are following  
3 regulations and hunting during the open season, killing legal  
4 animals. But those that aren't doing it right are endangering  
5 the opportunities for the rest of the ethical people.

6 //

7         You might wonder why I'm telling you about this. And I  
8 guess I want to say that on the subject of waste, we as adults  
9 are responsible for educating people about the ethics of  
10 hunting. It's not Fish and Wildlife's or Fish and Game's job  
11 to teach that. That's a societal thing or something that needs  
12 to be taught by people. And in most case it would be  
13 inappropriate for me as a Fish and Wildlife person to be  
14 telling people what's ethical and what isn't.

15 //

16         I don't have the answers. I don't know what the answer  
17 it. I'm hoping that some of you would have some answers. But  
18 I want to make you all aware of this problem, and let you  
19 understand the magnitude of it.

20 //

21         The problem from my chair, where I look at it, is  
22 getting worse every year, and if something isn't done, I  
23 believe the results will be very bad.

24 //

25         On the subject of poaching, one of your jobs is sitting  
26 here is to submit reasonable regulations, and in most cases  
27 they pass those regulations, the Subsistence Board does, if  
28 they're reasonable. But what good does it do to establish  
29 these regulations if people don't follow them?

30 //

31         For instance, just recently a cow moose and two calves  
32 moved to the lower part of the Greek (ph) River here near  
33 Bethel. Many hunters saw them and left them alone. I saw them  
34 from the air when I was flying, doing my business. But within  
35 a short time, a hunter killed the cow, and a week later two  
36 hunters from a nearby village killed both calves. They were  
37 all illegal moose, and those alone could have provided many  
38 offspring for the future. They destroyed the opportunity for  
39 all other hunters.

40 //

41         A couple of years ago a hunter from a village nearby  
42 Bethel killed all eight animals in a herd of muskox,  
43 eliminating the possibility of ever having muskox in this area  
44 for a long time.

45 //

46         I don't think law enforcement is the answer. I don't  
47 think that that is the answer. There are very few game  
48 wardens, a lot of country to cover. I think the two answers  
49 are education, we need to educate all people as to why limits  
50 are important, and why waste is not acceptable. And we need to

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1 have community support. If community's tolerate this type of  
2 behavior, then it's going to continue. If they don't, then it  
3 will stop.

4 //

5 The State has a program called Wildlife Safeguard  
6 wherein people can call in anonymously and report violations.  
7 More people than ever before are calling in on that now, so I  
8 think that in some cases people are beginning to see that this  
9 problem exists and they're doing something about it. But  
10 individually we all need, me included, we all need to set  
11 examples and let others know that these activities hurt all  
12 people, and that we don't support them.

13 //

14 These subjects are hard for me to discuss, and I think  
15 it's probably very hard for you to hear some of these things,  
16 but I know who you people are, and I know that you detest these  
17 issues just as much as I do, and I felt it be important that  
18 you be aware of these problems, so that you can address them in  
19 your proceedings. Thank you.

20 //

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mike.

22 //

23 MR. RIORDEN: These are the pictures, Mr. Chairman,  
24 that I'll pass around and people can take a look at.

25 //

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Again, I would like to ask Council  
27 member and area village resource concern?

28 //

29 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

30 //

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

32 //

33 MR. NICK: I want to thank Mr. Riorden for being frank  
34 with us. For me, it makes me realize that we ourselves are  
35 responsible, too, because we do see from time to time things  
36 that I'll probably see in the pictures. As you indicated, the  
37 majority do utilize and do use as you've described.

38 //

39 But -- and I'd like to go back to my grandfather. I  
40 don't know, it was back in the 1700s or 1800s. Our ancestors  
41 were probably more conservative than all the conservation  
42 groups in the world, 'cause they left the land as it is, you  
43 know, pristine every day. But they used it every day, and  
44 utilized -- they utilize every part of what they get.

45 //

46 And I'd like to point to my direction between Nelson  
47 Island and Bethel, the tundra area. We have a species about  
48 that long, but it's what is available from November to May,  
49 called blackfish. We cherish the blackfish, and I'd like to  
50 tell a little story. It amuses me sometimes when I think about

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1 land claims, and a little since (ph) to the land claims, the  
2 dates that the enactment of the legislation extinguishes my  
3 aboriginal rights to subsistence hunting, fish. Blackfish as I  
4 said was cherished by the tundra people. My grandpa at one  
5 time when religion first came to the region, there was a  
6 preacher that spoke of a wonderful place where everything will  
7 be fine. There will be no sadness, there will be food at the  
8 table, everywhere. It will be -- everybody will be happy every  
9 day. And then he preached to the people in Oslie (ph) in my  
10 grandpa's days of what they need to do to reach that wonderful  
11 place. And my grandpa I guess got curious about that wonderful  
12 place which this person called heaven. The question was  
13 raised, is there a place in that wonderful place where I can  
14 set a blackfish trap? The response was, no, you will not have  
15 a reason to set a blackfish trap, because everything will be  
16 provided to you. That offended my grandpa, you know, he ranted  
17 (ph) -- you know, turned around away from the speaker, he was  
18 so offended I guess, and said, well, if there's no blackfish in  
19 that wonderful place, there's no point in trying to get to that  
20 place. That's how much we -- our ancestors cherished our  
21 resources, to utilize them.

22 //

23 So I want to thank Mr. Riorden for being frank with us.  
24 And I'm sure that the members of the Council will be coming --  
25 events that will occur after December 1st. One of the reasons  
26 why I became interested in serving on this Council is what I  
27 foresee when -- in the area of the subsistence. I see a lot of  
28 changes. And in listening to March meeting in Hooper Bay that  
29 was publicized, I got interested, because our resources are  
30 renewable, and we can have them forever. And in fact the Bible  
31 said that it would be provided to us forever, but if we  
32 wantonly waste anything, then it will no longer be there. So I  
33 just wanted to express my input to what Mr. Riorden stated,  
34 that it is up to us.

35 //

36 And one of the ways which I see as successful is in the  
37 co-management agreements on the migratory birds. And then with  
38 work -- with the villages working with Fish and Wildlife and  
39 every agency that is bestowed with the management of the  
40 resources, we can preserve the resource, and preserve the  
41 habitat. Doy.

42 //

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Robert.

44 //

45 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman?

46 //

47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester?

48 //

49 MR. L. WILDE: Mike, I want to appreciate the fact that  
50 you did bring up the subject of wanton waste, because when I

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1 get back to Hooper Bay, I'll make sure that the Village Council  
2 and the Traditional Council and the elders hear about this, and  
3 we'll start from there, and see if we can -- I haven't heard  
4 about so much waste out there, but, you know, just because I  
5 haven't heard it doesn't mean it's not there. We'll make sure  
6 that the message gets out.

7 //

8 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

9 //

10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

11 //

12 MR. NICK: I just want to make one other comments. I  
13 sure wish that this was over the air, over the radio where the  
14 Delta can hear it. So maybe Mike can make a similar  
15 presentation over the radio some day.

16 //

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more -- council members, any more  
18 resource concern in the villages? I ask (In Yup'ik)?

19 //

20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No.

21 //

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No?

23 //

24 MR. McCANN: Billy McCann said that Mike's report, he  
25 said that he's really hurt because of the waste -- because of  
26 the waste, wanton waste of fish and wildlife resources. He  
27 said that considering what elders or other people says, that  
28 they never waste any fish and wildlife resources. He said that  
29 we should do something about that wanton waste, that we should  
30 let the villages know. We should let our villages know what  
31 Mike's report is all about by notifying the villages and their  
32 leaders. He said that he's hurt -- feeling sort of hurt right  
33 now, because -- by the people who did that are making native  
34 people looking like a bunch of liars. Without hesitation, we  
35 should bring this message out to the villages. Maybe not all  
36 of the villages has wanton waste, but if young people do that,  
37 all the people will be blamed. He mentioned that some people  
38 go sport hunting and fishing, and when the Yup'ik people hear  
39 that people go sport fishing or hunting, Yup'ik people are also  
40 hurt, and we -- because of that wanton waste should be brought  
41 to the attention of all the people. We should never waste any  
42 meat, and the sources wouldn't be multiplying. Resources  
43 wouldn't be increasing. Thank you.

44 //

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, Bill. John?

46 //

47 MR. HANSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, Mike,  
48 I want to thank you for what you just presented to us. When I  
49 was on the Game Board, this wanton waste has been going on. I  
50 got on the Game Board in 1975 when Hammond was the president.



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1 The first thing I heard was wanton waste, and it's been going  
2 on year after year. There's few people in a community or  
3 (indiscernible) that will abide by the laws. There's more than  
4 a few that will try to break the law. I know this. The same  
5 way with fishing. This is happens fishing, hunting game, and  
6 how many years have these federal councils here have been on.  
7 The people on the Yukon haven't heard. The representatives  
8 that comes from the Yukon, in a meeting or when there's a  
9 gathering, that has never occurred, a person from this Council  
10 talk about wanton waste. So you hit the nail right on the head  
11 when you presented wanton waste here or wanton waste there.  
12 And I think it's our job as federal council that when we go  
13 back to our regions or areas, when there's a gathering, that we  
14 present this wanton waste, because there's -- as we present it  
15 to the people, we're going to hit some person's head, for this  
16 guys know that if I'm going to wanton waste, or if I did wanton  
17 waste prior years, well, they know this, that I've been wanton  
18 wasting. And that will give them an idea the next time they go  
19 out and wanton waste, maybe there will be one or two people  
20 that's going to try to see if they can sneak away from wanton  
21 waste. But pretty soon, if we keep doing that, I think we'll  
22 educate the people in the village or in the community not to do  
23 the wanton waste when they go out hunting for game or hunting  
24 for fish or salmon or broadfish or sheefish or pike. I've  
25 known all these, all these years, but there was no way to --  
26 I've told our councils a couple of times about wanton waste  
27 when I was on the Game Board, because it wasn't my job as a  
28 Game Board member to go to -- back to my village and tell them.  
29 There was a few times I did, but there was still one or two  
30 people that would go out and sneak off and try and see if they  
31 could get caught.

32 //

33 But I think if each one of us here when we go back to  
34 our village, when there's a gathering, it's mentioned, wanton  
35 waste, then I think we'll educate our fellow citizens on wanton  
36 waste, and then plus our grandfathers like Robert Nick said,  
37 never waste food. I was raised like that. If I waste, I'm not  
38 a hunter. That's what my mom used to tell me. My grandfather  
39 died before I was born. My grandmother died when I was five  
40 years old. My mom died when I was five years old, so I was  
41 just raised by my uncle. But my uncle kept telling me, never  
42 waste. If you go out hunting, just get what you need. This  
43 younger generation, they just go out and boom, boom, boom,  
44 anything they see. They don't care what the elders tell them,  
45 but it's getting into the schools. Elders to the high schools,  
46 grade schools, and they're educating the young ones on wanton  
47 waste. But the ones that went to Mt. Edgecumb or some other  
48 high school, they're the ones that haven't heard. They're --  
49 maybe they're the ones that just go out and just for the fun  
50 and shoot a caribou or shoot a beaver and just leave it there,

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1 just for practice, target practice. But I think sooner or  
2 later everybody's going to be educated on wanton waste.

3 //

4 And I think you stayed with Fish and Game in Flat  
5 Island too long. You ended up being chained with your wife  
6 from Kotlik.

7 //

8 (Laughter)

9 //

10 MR. HANSON: Quyana.

11 //

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Thank you. Yeah.

13 //

14 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman, I have a comment.

15 //

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay.

17 //

18 MR. CHURCH: I've been putting some thought to the  
19 concern of wanton waste over the past year and a half down in  
20 Quinhagak, and in my own opinion, as a former IRA council  
21 member with the native village, and now as the natural resource  
22 director for the same organization, I feel that, you know, the  
23 Fish and Wildlife Service should be able to work with our  
24 native villages and our native councils through the IRA or the  
25 traditional tribal councils to empower our tribal government,  
26 and also to assist in helping them to develop tribal hunting  
27 and fishing codes which could address the concern of wanton  
28 waste. As tribal governments are empowered and funded, and  
29 their infrastructure, their political infrastructure is  
30 developed and organized, there is the ability to develop  
31 natural resource departments. And with natural resource  
32 departments, there's an ability to work with tribal courts.  
33 With tribal courts you can have tribal ordinances or tribal  
34 codes that regulate and manage our traditional use of our  
35 subsistence resources. And there needs to be a way that we as  
36 advisory council members should be able to convince the U.S.  
37 Fish and Wildlife Service that there is a need for that. You  
38 know, it may not come within a year or two years, but it should  
39 be, you know, on our agenda each and every time we discuss  
40 anything that has to do with our native people and communities'  
41 use of the resources that we have traditionally used for  
42 generation after generation. Thank you.

43 //

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Willard. Any more concern  
45 from council members?

46 //

47 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

48 //

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

50 //

0035

1 MR. NICK: I have comments, but I think they're on the  
2 agenda, like the akakiik, the.....

3 //

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

5 //

6 MR. NICK: .....broad head whitefish, so.....

7 //

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

9 //

10 MR. NICK: .....I'll reserve my comments for those  
11 items when they -- when we come to them.

12 //

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

14 //

15 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I've got a question for  
16 Mike. If in the event a village should request assistance in  
17 developing some type of regulation, which would be acceptable  
18 to the ethnic, quote/quote, type of ruling -- rules concerning  
19 subsistence and the laws as written by the Government of the  
20 United States, would you or anybody in your staff have the  
21 means to get out to the areas that request assistance from you  
22 or your department or the department that's concerned with that  
23 within the organization that you serve?

24 //

25 MR. RIORDEN: The answer is yes, we'll be more than  
26 willing to come out and work with people on this issue, no  
27 matter what form it takes. Work with village governments,  
28 tribal councils, any kind of group that wants to address this  
29 issue, we'd be more than happy to work with them on it.

30 //

31 MR. L. WILDE: In my observations, I feel that there's  
32 a certain amount of denial within some areas of the population  
33 as far as wanton waste is concerned, and we need to be -- they  
34 need to be brought forward, you know, in the manner that you  
35 presented this morning, I think would be the way to go.

36 //

37 MR. RIORDEN: I agree. I think there is a lot of  
38 denial about the problem. I find myself doing it, because I  
39 don't like to even talk about it, and none of us do. But I  
40 agree, I think we do need to address it and take care of it.

41 //

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

43 //

44 MR. NICK: I have one comment that's come to mind. One  
45 possible way that we could probably address this issue is  
46 through a co-management type agreement under the amendments of  
47 the -- protocol amendments of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act  
48 where there's a specific stipulation that tribal councils will  
49 be involved on the -- in the regulations on who can hunt and  
50 where. So maybe not only on birds, but also on the fish that

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1 we see there, the big game,.....

2 //

3 MR. RIORDEN: Uh-hum.

4 //

5 MR. NICK: .....similar type agreements can be entered  
6 into with the tribes. They are getting more and more active in  
7 the villages. In my village. I'm sure that in other villages  
8 the tribes are getting more active. So we could possibly  
9 utilize them, because they're -- without them, we cannot do  
10 whatever rule that we might develop for -- to curb useless  
11 killing of these animals, so we need to use them, because  
12 they're the ones that are out there watching them, knowing  
13 them, observing them.

14 //

15 MR. RIORDEN: I agree. There are a lot of avenues,  
16 including tribal governments, and whatever organizations that  
17 are out there to work with this, but I still firmly believe  
18 that dedication to teaching traditional values about waste and  
19 not wasting essentially are probably more important than all  
20 the laws in the world.

21 //

22 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I believe that -- I think  
23 this subject should start from us, you know, there's a lot of  
24 people within the villages that don't like to be told by other  
25 organizations what is going wrong in their area. I think it  
26 has to be from us to inform them so they can in turn request  
27 help from people like Mike to come over to the village. If we  
28 don't say anything, this subject will just be stuck in this  
29 room and not go out. It has to be up to us advisory who are  
30 here that heard this first hand to go back to our villages and  
31 see if we can't get something done on our level.

32 //

33 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, thank you, when I was RIT,  
34 what worked for us was the school programs that we have on  
35 Hooper Bay moose management, and if this other RITs who have  
36 school programs like we did, that would help too on -- if they  
37 talk about illegal activities that there is in villages. If  
38 they bring this out to the students in school, they would pass  
39 that down to their parents, too,.....

40 //

41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Ee-ee.

42 //

43 MR. CHARLES: .....like we did on moose management  
44 plan. I think that would be a start, too, on educating our  
45 people. That would help some, because of the moose management  
46 plan worked when we had school programs, and there was an RIT,  
47 and they -- when I was doing school programs, I talked to the  
48 students in Yup'ik, and in English. I don't speak very good in  
49 English, but I do the best I can. But when I talk to them in  
50 Yup'ik, they pass that afterward to their parents when they go

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1 home. Now, some parents ask them, ask the kids, what happened  
2 in school, especially the little ones. And those are -- that's  
3 a good thing to talk about in school.

4 //

5 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, some years back we had a  
6 problem with birds and migratory birds in our area, and we  
7 turned to AVCP for help to get the word out. I think that it  
8 might be an idea to go through AVCP to get the word out about  
9 wanton waste in our area. They might have the resources. I  
10 don't know if they have the resource or not, but if they don't,  
11 they know how to get them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 //

13 MS. SPARCK: I just wanted to say -- this is Michelle  
14 from AVCP,.....

15 //

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

17 //

18 MS. SPARCK: .....that at our last Western Brown Bear  
19 meeting, Willard was attending there, he's a board member, but  
20 we discussed the take of gall bladders from bears to be sold,  
21 whereas the rest of the carcass would be wasted. From then on  
22 I got information about the convention on the international  
23 trade of endangered species. It's to protect endangered  
24 species, and brown -- and bears are considered under that list.  
25 And I sent it along to Fish and Wildlife and to Fish and Game,  
26 and we're working together to get some information out to the  
27 villages to alert hunters on the penalties if they were caught  
28 for such an act. So I think we can extend that to wanton waste  
29 and other issues of concern that are bringing brought up today.

30 //

31 MR. L. WILDE: It's not so much the penalties. Nobody  
32 likes to hear about the penalties. I think the information  
33 should go out as to what it is, you know. Wanton waste. This  
34 is it.

35 //

36 MS. SPARCK: Uh-hum.

37 //

38 MR. L. WILDE: And the penalties will come later, but,  
39 you know, if you threaten somebody with penalties, there's a  
40 different feeling than if you give them information on wanton  
41 waste.

42 //

43 MS. SPARCK: Well, I agree, and I think what's most  
44 effective is when these hunters know they're not welcome by  
45 their communities when they participate in such acts that hurt  
46 the communities as a whole.

47 //

48 MR. L. WILDE: Right.

49 //

50 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman?

0038

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill?

2 //

3 MR. McCANN: Billy McCann's concern is that the wanton  
4 waste is one of the most important things that this people  
5 brought to the villages, and it's one of the important -- one  
6 of the important subjects. He said that if KYUK was here, it  
7 would be good source, and people would hear what the problem  
8 is. Billy McCann said that we should not talk about penalizing  
9 people, but we should talk about the wanton waste problem, let  
10 people know, not only meat, but fish and wildlife resources.  
11 He said that he gives his grandchildren advice. Every time  
12 when his grandchildren eat something, he tell them to eat all  
13 of it, instead of wasting part of it, but then when there's  
14 left overs, he end up eating his grandchildren's food. He said  
15 that the first time he hear wanton waste out in the villages,  
16 and it hit him -- rather he's feeling very bad about it, and he  
17 wanted to make sure that people weren't -- he want to make sure  
18 the message gets out to the villages. And sometimes there's  
19 wounded game. Sometime maybe there's wounded animal which  
20 walks away from a hunter and dies out there maybe. Not all of  
21 them are wanton waste, but, you know, we should consider some  
22 of these things, too, when we send a message like wounded  
23 animals. I feel that some of this wanton waste cases might be  
24 wounded animals which die in the field. But what we should do  
25 is we should send a message by sending message out to the  
26 villages.

27 //

28 INTERPRETER: I missed part of Billy's.....

29 //

30 MR. McCANN: Qu yana.

31 //

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Qu yana, Bill. Robert?

33 //

34 MR. NICK: This issue that we're discussing is so  
35 important, and I'm glad that the Chairman is allowing us to  
36 speak this long, but I sit on the broadcasting (ph) board, and  
37 I will bring this up in a meeting of natural resource, you  
38 know, subsistence discussions at our next meeting. But I also  
39 would like to add, you know, we hear things -- we heard things  
40 this morning that are from the heart. And we -- I myself along  
41 with many others here sitting at the head table, we're hunters,  
42 we're fishermen, and then when I do go out, I take home  
43 everything that I can salvage, and -- but we do need to let the  
44 public know that those that do leave some meat behind are not  
45 making us happy, and should not be tolerated, and then as I  
46 indicated before, I wish that KYUK was publicizing these --  
47 this discussion.

48 //

49 And then looking back to what the Council did in March  
50 in Hooper Bay of having the council members more involved in

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1 the committee, or staff work, the staff meetings, staff  
2 recommendations, if staff through the RITs, the refuge  
3 information technicians and we have two very capable people,  
4 Chuck and Al, who can relate in both languages to the public.  
5 We should -- I agree that we should let our public know.

6 //

7 And if need be, you know, I would volunteer to work  
8 with Mike, if the Chairman directs me or asks me to even get on  
9 the radio. I'll translate and make my points. But we also we  
10 have -- we also have the Association of Village Council  
11 Presidents whose membership is the entire region, and then we  
12 should utilize every means, because this subject is so  
13 important.

14 //

15 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman?

16 //

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester?

18 //

19 MR. L. WILDE: I'd like to move that the Council direct  
20 staff to -- my English just went to hell -- to prepare a  
21 presentation concerning wanton waste, and we've got consensus  
22 of this Council to be made -- to be presented to the public at  
23 a later date. That's my motion, Mr. Chairman.

24 //

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion. Is there.....

26 //

27 MR. NICK: I second.

28 //

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Robert Nick. Discussion to  
30 the motion?

31 //

32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

33 //

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called for. All who  
35 support the motion say aye?

36 //

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38 //

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed, same sign?

40 //

41 (No opposing votes.)

42 //

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Yeah, go ahead.

44 //

45 MS. SPARCK: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say that I  
46 agreed with Lester and Billy and John, that this should be  
47 taken back at a village level first. We shouldn't -- there's a  
48 big danger to us making it a very big public issue right away,  
49 because my job this year since I moved back to Alaska was  
50 dealing with the State Legislature and dealing with special

0040

1 interest groups, like the sport hunters and the sport  
2 fishermen, the Alaska Outdoor Council, the territorial people,  
3 the people who view subsistence hunters and fishermen as  
4 competition for the resources in which they take at a leisurely  
5 way. They do it for recreation, they do it for fun. Anything  
6 that they can use against us like the stories Mike told us  
7 about is always going to be used against us as a whole rather  
8 than the few bad apples that were out there that did something  
9 like waste the game or the fish that they've taken.

10 //

11 The most effective thing for our region that I've  
12 found, even if we have Fish and Wildlife or Fish and Game at  
13 our fingertips, is our traditional councils, our elders in the  
14 villages, they are the best way to educate, and they are the  
15 best way to get information out, and I think we should  
16 concentrate on taking it back to your villages, and getting it  
17 out at the village level before we address it with the rest of  
18 the State.

19 //

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. I think.....

21 //

22 MR. NICOLAI: Mr. Chairman, one more thing.

23 //

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Ilarion?

25 //

26 MR. NICOLAI: Besides what we've been talking about, I  
27 believe that the State of Alaska needs to start recognizing the  
28 tribal entities, supporting them again through MOA, that like  
29 in our community last, when was it? April or May, Fish and  
30 Wildlife came out, we discussed trouts that were being illegal  
31 taken, grub boxes that were filled up and nobody to enforce  
32 that subsistence, the regulations in the State of Alaska or  
33 Federal Government regulations on subsistence taking of rainbow  
34 trout, and we've taken since we had a gaming (ph) permit that  
35 -- and the State of Alaska was short on staff and funding that  
36 if they gave us that power, we'd be able to have that funding  
37 and support from the council to do a similar thing like what we  
38 have in Quinhagak with that river ranger project. But without  
39 an MOA it will be what's been happening down there, is the  
40 State of Alaska versus Federal Government, and villages in  
41 between. So the State of Alaska needs to start recognizing  
42 these local tribal entities. They have ways of working things  
43 out, too. Thanks.

44 //

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Ilarion. I think we  
46 are.....

47 //

48 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

49 //

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.



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1 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, thank you for one more  
2 minute. I know we're about to move ahead. I wanted to respond  
3 to the comments about the importance of using the radio as one  
4 more avenue of communication about these concerns, and since we  
5 do have a tape of our meeting this morning, we could actually  
6 work with Mike and John and KYUK to use the tape of discussion  
7 this morning, maybe edit it, and turn it into a program of some  
8 sort. So with your permission, maybe we could add that to the  
9 list of follow-up activities in the next few days.  
10 //

11 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, there would be nothing  
12 wrong with that, but I think there should be -- I think there  
13 should be some thought to what Michelle said. You know,  
14 there's a lot of people out there just waiting for information  
15 like this to come over the air. I think before it's brought  
16 over to the radio station, that it should be with the consensus  
17 of maybe the Chairman and the elders in the villages as to how  
18 that should be presented on the air. I mean, don't just take  
19 it off the tape and present it as is, but you should have some  
20 discussion with the people that it affects.  
21 //

22 MR. BRELSFORD: I certainly understand the caution.  
23 I'm kind of thinking real quickly about how we could that well.  
24 Maybe some kind of consultation with two or three  
25 representatives from the Council?  
26 //

27 MR. L. WILDE: Paul John would be a good one.  
28 //

29 MR. BRELSFORD: I'm kind of looking at Mike to see if  
30 he thinks it's a worthwhile idea to try to make a radio program  
31 of some sort out of this, or should we focus on other things as  
32 the communication?  
33 //

34 MR. RIORDEN: Thank you.  
35 //

36 MR. BRELSFORD: We could have a subcommittee of some  
37 sort to work on this in the next two weeks if.....  
38 //

39 MR. RIORDEN: Okay. Well, I agree that the word needs  
40 to get out, and I understand what Michelle's saying in effect,  
41 I tend to agree with her. But I personally think the place  
42 where this has the most benefit is on the local level, you guys  
43 going back and talking to your village councils. We can  
44 provide you information if you need it, specific instances,  
45 pictures. I can make pictures for you, whatever you guys need.  
46 But I truly believe that a grounds up process here is a better  
47 way. I want people to look inward and say, those people are  
48 taking care of the problem themselves. They recognized it,  
49 there is a problem, and they're taking care of it.  
50 //

0042

1 I don't want to see it blown completely out of  
2 proportion either. I don't want people from out of the region  
3 saying that everybody on the Delta wastes, because we all know  
4 that is not true. But if we don't stop it real soon, that's  
5 the kind of thing that's going to happen.

6 //

7 So my recommendation is probably more working on a  
8 local level, and it's our intent to also work this winter with  
9 our RITs like James was recommending, talking to school  
10 children about it, and also we'll probably have some village  
11 meetings and programs to discuss it also. And if you feel that  
12 that's adequate, then I'd sure be pleased and happy to work  
13 with that, whatever the wish is.

14 //

15 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman?

16 //

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill?

18 //

19 MR. McCANN: How about also reading letters -- writing  
20 letters to each councils members in the communities, make sure  
21 they get that.

22 //

23 MR. RIORDEN: Okay. We could do that.

24 //

25 MR. McCANN: I think that would be a better way,  
26 too,.....

27 //

28 MR. RIORDEN: Okay.

29 //

30 MR. McCANN: .....to have all the IRA councils, or city  
31 councils, village,.....

32 //

33 MR. RIORDEN: Okay. That would be.....

34 //

35 MR. McCANN: .....both, with letter explaining what  
36 we're talking about.

37 //

38 MR. RIORDEN: Okay. I'd be glad to do that.

39 //

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mike, I wonder if it's possible that  
41 you could work with the State, like Mike Coffing, and also  
42 Michelle there, AVCP, and also you could take Robert Nick, work  
43 with it, conduct some kind of program, not only that I would  
44 like to see it on agenda for next meeting if we're going to  
45 have meeting in Kuskokwim, or if we're going to have a meeting  
46 in Yukon, it should be on the agenda. I think it would be  
47 good. You three, four together and make more like a program,  
48 you know, that today's I do myself that I talk and try to  
49 protect the subsistence. Because back in the early days, as  
50 far from '72, when my teacher tell me, you know, I was looking

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1 for an approach (ph) once back there. I didn't talking very  
2 much. But my teacher, Harry Sparck, he told me that, Harry,  
3 you have to do your best and know what you're doing. I don't  
4 know if he's -- today if he's alive, I don't know what he would  
5 say to me. He's the man that he teach me a lot of things, how  
6 to protect the subsistence. I worked with him. I go to the  
7 villages. I think that today we've got some young people.  
8 There's some young people that in the school children,  
9 teenagers, going to teenagers that I speak to. Sometimes they  
10 -- some of them, they turn around, they say, you're not my  
11 boss. You're not the Fish and Game. Sometimes. But I don't  
12 respond that -- what they say to me. I think it's good if we  
13 could get program, three or four of you guys could work on it,  
14 and translators and AVCP got resource already that you guys  
15 could maybe sit together and then make a program.

16 //

17 MR. RIORDEN: I'm sure we can do that.

18 //

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

20 //

21 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

22 //

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

24 //

25 MR. NICK: I just want to make one comment. I want to  
26 thank Michelle. I think you made the most sound suggestion  
27 there. You know, I did not realize the conditions that we're  
28 in today on the subsistence issue, but they are apt. And  
29 rather than be in a reactive stance here, I think proactive as  
30 the Chairman indicated, that some proactive plan should be made  
31 so that education that is definitely needed be done. And I  
32 thank you, Michelle, you know, you make me realize that, you  
33 know, we have to think ahead sometimes.

34 //

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Robert. Let's go to the  
36 next on our agenda. Number nine. We will continue to repeat  
37 this during our meeting. Open for to proposals and change  
38 federal regulations. You could find it at Tab H on your packet  
39 there.

40 //

41 Maybe I'll ask Pat.....

42 //

43 MR. ANDREW: Togiak.

44 //

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Togiak?

46 //

47 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

48 //

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I want to recognize the Togiak  
50 National Wildlife Refuge before we go to next one. (In Yup'ik)

0044

1 MR. DYASUK: Jon Igua (ph), Jon Dyasuk. (In Yup'ik)  
2 He introduced himself as Jon Dyasuk, Aaron Archebeque, Andy  
3 Aderman, biologist from Togiak Refuge.

4 //

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Quyana. Open floor for  
6 proposal to change federal regulation from the public. I think  
7 I'm going to ask Pat to read this part of the agenda.

8 //

9 MS. McCLENAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm Pat  
10 McClenahan. The first thing I'd like to tell you is that we  
11 have received some proposals from Kwethluk, and we're working  
12 with them to finalize them. We don't have the final results  
13 yet, so we can't say what they will be. Perhaps one will be  
14 for black bear for Units 17(A) and (B), but we're not sure yet.  
15 We'll report that a little bit later.

16 //

17 We, Dave Fisher and I, will be available to help anyone  
18 to develop other proposals that you might have throughout this  
19 meeting, and also you can call us in Anchorage if you need  
20 assistance with your proposals. There are proposal forms in  
21 the yellow books on the back table, and I believe you also have  
22 a proposal form in your blue books. Please feel free to ask us  
23 any questions you have, or if we can help you, please let us  
24 know. Was there anything in particular, any questions you had  
25 about proposals at this time?

26 //

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do we have any proposals from the  
28 public at this time? Now about from agencies? Do we have any  
29 proposals from agencies? How about Regional Council, if any?

30 //

31 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

32 //

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik) Do you have any  
34 proposals, council -- that come from councils? Robert, (In  
35 Yup'ik)?

36 //

37 MR. NICK: I just have one question. I know that AVCP  
38 is gathering information from villages on the routes of the  
39 hovercraft demonstration project of the U.S. Postal Service.  
40 If -- would this Council have anything to do with any proposals  
41 in regards to the continuation after the two-year period for  
42 the hovercraft, is my question.

43 //

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any response from -- Michelle?

45 //

46 MS. SPARCK: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Nick, are you asking if  
47 this board has anything to do with the hovercraft, or.....

48 //

49 MR. NICK: Well, is -- would this.....

50 //

0045

1 MS. SPARCK: .....should have anything to do?

2 //

3 MR. NICK: .....group be involved in any way? By maybe  
4 a resolution or a letter or consensus or.....

5 //

6 MS. SPARCK: Well, AVCP is conducting a study of the  
7 impacts, environmental impacts of the hovercraft on the  
8 villages, the eight villages on their route. U.S. Postal  
9 Service has also contracted out to another company to study the  
10 environmental impacts, and as far as I know, Calista has their  
11 own separate study going on about the environmental impacts, so  
12 there's three studies being conducted right now of the  
13 hovercraft program. It's not in my department, it's actually  
14 under Realty that they're -- AVCP is studying the hovercraft  
15 issue, but I'd gladly bring that back to their attention, that  
16 the Subsistence Board is interested in it.

17 //

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert, I think for your question  
19 concerning -- how can.....

20 //

21 MR. NICK: Okay.

22 //

23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. I am on the Transportation  
24 Commission member. In the Yukon River, we, people of Yukon,  
25 Lower Yukon area, be against that. They don't want that kind  
26 of craft, you know, what they have it in Kuskokwim, because of  
27 the safety. Not only safety of people, and also safety of the  
28 resource. So for that reason, the people that I talk to,  
29 they're against it. So we're going to have a meeting on the  
30 14th in Anchorage. We're gathering up some information from  
31 the villages, what they think about what transportation they  
32 need. Some of them, they concerned about hovercraft, what they  
33 do to our resources, and safety of the people, because they use  
34 -- these young people, they use Yukon for hunting and fishing  
35 and all that, the people on the -- in the Lower Yukon area,  
36 especially mostly in my village, but I don't know about others,  
37 so we will find out maybe soon.

38 //

39 MR. NICK: I have.....

40 //

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

42 //

43 MR. NICK: I have one other comment, I guess kind of a  
44 question to both Fish and Game and then Fish and Wildlife, from  
45 my lack of knowledge, you know, because I'm new to the board,  
46 to the Council. Is the discussion of the beaver, of the tundra  
47 and the beaver dams that line up the sloughs from the mouth to  
48 the headwaters. Sometimes I've gone up the Ulilik (ph) River,  
49 which is a tributary of Putnikalik (ph), all the way up to  
50 where there's -- I can't go no more, just a few miles from

0046

1 Kalskag. I used to go there years ago when I was young, and  
2 there never used to be any beaver dams. The last trip I made  
3 up there, I had to go over 20 beaver dams. In fact, one of  
4 them was about five feet high. I had to pull my boat over.  
5 But beaver dams and beavers are probably one of the main  
6 destroyers of the habitat, you know, for the fish resources in  
7 the tundra, because they block up the streams that fish go up  
8 to spawn. And then when we have high water, they go over the  
9 dams and go up. When the water drops, they can't go out, and  
10 then we have many stories of -- from hunters in the tundra that  
11 have seen thousands of whitefish above the beaver dam. And  
12 then we have stories of many whitefish below the beaver dam  
13 can't go up.

14 //

15 So my question is has there been any proposals for  
16 maybe a bounty on beaver, control them, maybe a hunt? I was  
17 asked by a person from Bethel yesterday that I should bring  
18 this up, that I should propose this proposal. You know, he  
19 laughed and said that. Summertime when salmonberries are ripe  
20 is a time when almost -- most villagers go out in the tundra  
21 and pick berries. He said, how about opening up a beaver kill  
22 then with a small bounty, but with a stipulation that if they  
23 kill a beaver that they put it underground so that they won't  
24 be in the open, but bury it underground. So my question's  
25 simply beaver population control, and then restoration of all  
26 sloughs that the beaver have destroyed.

27 //

28 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, we seen it coming.

29 //

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Ida and.....

31 //

32 MR. SEAVOY: Roger Seavoy from Fish and Game,.....

33 //

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Roger and.....

35 //

36 MR. SEAVOY: .....Wildlife Conservation.

37 //

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: .....maybe you guys -- I would -- for  
39 the record say that if you could say your name and who you  
40 represent and -- Uh-hum.

41 //

42 MR. SEAVOY: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name  
43 is Roger Seavoy, I work with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
44 Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, and I've heard a  
45 number of the same concerns as you had about the beaver. And  
46 I've talked with a few folks from Nelson Island all the way  
47 across to Emmonak. I'll kind of take this in different pieces  
48 so I'll break it apart with the parts -- the portions I'm  
49 familiar with, and I can probably move aside anything that --  
50 with fish, because I'm not a -- you know, as far as fish

0047

1 movements and that sort of thing being blocked by beaver, I  
2 just don't know. I'm not an expert with fish.  
3 //

4 I have talked with habitat division and a number of  
5 other folks around the State regarding removal of those beaver  
6 dams. As it turns out, there are no permits required, there is  
7 no follow-up required afterwards if a person wanted to remove  
8 those beaver dams. The only thing that Habitat Division said  
9 was you can't use explosive. So you could go in there and move  
10 things around I guess. They also said heavy equipment crossing  
11 salmon streams requires some kind of a permit. That's as much  
12 information as I could gather as far as removing those beaver  
13 dams. So you could do it. The problem is, obviously, and I  
14 think you probably all have it in your heads already, as soon  
15 as you remove it, the beaver's going to come back and put it  
16 right back. So it's going to take removing those beavers in  
17 some fashion to solve the problem.  
18 //

19 Beaver populations could probably tolerate that. We  
20 don't have a problem with beaver populations. Doing that with  
21 the current Board of Game is probably going to require some  
22 kind of salvage requirement. You know, they're going to make a  
23 decision on that, and where you would -- if you were to take  
24 beavers during the -- you know, whatever time of the year  
25 beavers are taken, they're probably going to require either the  
26 hide be salvaged or the meat. They may not require that it's  
27 salvaged for human consumption. You know, it's a pretty common  
28 food that's used for dog food. And -- but I know I love beaver  
29 meat. I wouldn't mind seeing it required for human consumption  
30 myself, but that's -- you know, that's somebody else's call on  
31 that.  
32 //

33 The only proposal that I know of is likely to be put in  
34 by Ted Hamilton from Emmonak, and I expect that he's going to  
35 put in a proposal to the Alaska Board of Game. I'm not -- you  
36 know, you could probably draft a similar proposal. People who  
37 know Ted might want to talk with him and see if they could put  
38 the proposal, so that we don't end up with two different  
39 regulations governing beaver. I think it's a lot easier for  
40 trappers to conduct themselves if, you know, both sets of  
41 regulations give them -- tell them pretty much the same thing.  
42 //

43 When I talked with Ted, his -- the likely proposal  
44 that's he's going to put forward, I haven't seen it, but I  
45 expect he's going to ask for something with -- that says no bag  
46 limit, no closed season on beavers, with a couple of other  
47 things included. He would include that any hide that is sold  
48 or tanned commercially be sealed, but hides that are used for  
49 sub- -- you know, basically for subsistence in the home can be  
50 home-tanned, and they do not need to be sealed. So either the

0048

1 hide or the meat, or the meat is salvaged. Those would be some  
2 of the stipulations that he suggested, plus -- let's see, what  
3 else is there -- and any that are sold were sealed. And I  
4 think those are the only stipulations that I recall off the top  
5 of my head.

6 //

7 Now, of course, this was a conversation over the  
8 telephone that I had with Ted regarding that. That's the one  
9 conversation that I had with an individual from the Delta, and  
10 I expect he's going to act on it through making a proposal  
11 either directly to the Board of Game, or through the Lower  
12 Yukon Advisory Committee. I'm not sure which way he's going to  
13 do that. He may bring it up with Robert Moore, the chair of  
14 the Lower Yukon Advisory Committee, to put that proposal  
15 forward.

16 //

17 The other conversation I had was with an individual  
18 from Nelson Island, and his question was simply how do we  
19 remove beaver dams, and that's how I got the information, you  
20 know, which prompted me to look into this situation earlier to  
21 see, you know, now to go about doing it.

22 //

23 Currently, for a person to take beavers, we've got a  
24 beaver season that starts on November 1st and runs through June  
25 10th. You know, it's I think the most generous season in the  
26 state. Waiting until November 1st to take care of some of the  
27 problems that you notice when you're picking berries is -- you  
28 know, it's a hard time to do it, and then you have to think  
29 about, well, where was my problem last year, and I can go out  
30 and try to trap all the beavers in that area this year, and  
31 look that far away and make a special trip for it.

32 //

33 As I mentioned earlier though, you know, we've got  
34 expanded beaver populations which is exactly what you guys are  
35 noticing, and I don't foresee any -- you know, the type of  
36 additional harvest that would be, you know, targeted directly  
37 at problem areas. I don't see that it's being a problem unit-  
38 wide. It would be -- you know, when a proposal comes through,  
39 you would look at all the aspects that are included in that  
40 proposal, and consider how that might affect the judgment, but  
41 that's pretty much the way I see the situation. I would  
42 suggest if you're interested in addressing it here, that, you  
43 know, a proposal similar to what Ted Hamilton is putting  
44 together is probably in order.

45 //

46 Do you have anything, Ida?

47 //

48 MS. ALEXIE: I'm Ida Alexie, I'm with the Fish and Game  
49 Advisory Committees. Ted Hamilton submitted an agenda change  
50 request to the Board of Game. They denied it, because next



0049

1 year the council proposals will include the fur bearers, like  
2 beaver, for Unit 18. But he said that the problem that they're  
3 seeing over on the Lower Yukon is that they aren't getting any  
4 more blackfish because of the beaver dams.

5 //

6 And one old gentleman from Nelson Island area said that  
7 when the time comes when there's going to be a famine, you see  
8 beaver getting down to the edges of the --- moose and beaver  
9 getting down to the edges of the Bering Sea. They are seeing a  
10 lot of beaver now down in the Nelson Island area, and it's  
11 getting into their fish nets. And they -- the people in the  
12 Lower Yukon are asking for help in extending the beaver season.  
13 They wanted it -- I think they said they wanted it all year  
14 long so people -- and they also would like to be able to shoot  
15 beaver, not just trap them.

16 //

17 And my -- since the Board of Game will not be taking up  
18 Unit 18 beaver until next year, I am -- because the proposal --  
19 the agenda change request was denied, I would like to submit a  
20 suggestion that you could have a Regional Council generated  
21 proposal to address the beaver problem, and the State would  
22 probably, the Board of Game, the same people from the mouth of  
23 the Yukon will probably submit a proposal to the Board of Game  
24 to address the beaver problem, too.

25 //

26 That's all I have to say.

27 //

28 MR. SEAVOY: I'd like to add one more thing to what Ida  
29 said. Currently Unit 18 is one of the exceptions statewide  
30 where it is permitted to shoot beaver under trapping license,  
31 so that's already okay.

32 //

33 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I know little bit about beaver.  
34 I used to be a beaver trapper one time. You don't play with  
35 the beaver dam. You don't. If you do, you ask for trouble.  
36 You may take a part of it down, the next time he come over,  
37 beaver will come over and make sure that you won't play with it  
38 next time. You've got to have some tools. I seen a beaver  
39 dam, people tried to take a part of it down. If you don't take  
40 the whole dam out, next time they build it tougher so you  
41 wouldn't play with it, try to take it out.

42 //

43 Beaver dam, it's really a problem. I seen one at the  
44 lake that come up from the Flat River and come out to the lake  
45 across Mountain Village. One time my nephew tell me that I'm  
46 going to go set net across there lake, will you come with me?  
47 I tell him yeah. And he show me where the beaver is right cut  
48 across that big lake where the slough goes in. You would see  
49 the white fish hanging in those dam, just hanging, and try to  
50 go out. I suppose couldn't make it. I think there were five

0050

1 or six of them on that dam, those big whitefish that we call  
2 akakiik. Yeah, it sure is that it's a problem to blackfish  
3 close where we -- where we get the blackfish in our trap, put  
4 the blackfish trap.

5 //

6 But I think some of us, we know, like John Hanson was  
7 one of them, they had that experience, too, you know. You had  
8 to completely take the dam out in order to get rid of it, that  
9 kill off the beaver. And if you didn't kill off the beavers or  
10 trap them out in that one house, they'll be continuously  
11 building, building there.

12 //

13 Any more?

14 //

15 MR. L. WILDE: And some of us, like Mr. Nick says, if  
16 there's no blackfish in heaven, the hell with it.

17 //

18 (Laughter)

19 //

20 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair, just to inform the Council, Ted  
21 did contact the refuge about submitting a proposal to the  
22 Federal Subsistence Board that would parallel the State  
23 proposal. And he faxed us a copy, and we made some comments  
24 and got it back to him.

25 //

26 One caution for the Council, the Federal Subsistence  
27 Board has made the decision early on, many years ago, that any  
28 depredation or predator control kinds of activities were the  
29 purview of the State, not the Federal Subsistence Program. One  
30 of the comments we made to Ted was that he needs to expand on  
31 his proposal, because it was a depredation control kind of  
32 issue, to help restore fish -- the blackfish populations and  
33 whitefish populations in that Lower Yukon area, and we  
34 encouraged him to expand on use of beaver hides, human use of  
35 beaver meat, and things like that.

36 //

37 But his proposal is for a no closed season. Currently  
38 there is no bag limit for beaver. and also to expand the use  
39 of firearms, the use of firearms for taking of beaver  
40 throughout the entire season that beavers are allowed to be  
41 taken. So just to let the Council know, he is going -- working  
42 on that.

43 //

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Thank you.

45 //

46 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman?

47 //

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Billy?

49 //

50 MR. McCANN: I think I hear something from someone in

0051

1 wildlife, they're saying that we can nothing about the beaver  
2 dam. We can't blow them up or something. Now, let's --  
3 thinking about protecting the fish. We are -- you are  
4 protecting the beavers also. Turn around, and we protect  
5 villages on the land, what we're going to eat, what we're going  
6 to hunt, what we're going to fish. Okay. There's two  
7 combined, water fish, whitefish on the tundra. Land, beaver  
8 walking on the tundra, making blocks on the rivers, you've got  
9 two. Okay? But the beaver is living. He's not dying at all.  
10 But the fish are, the people eat. Let's do something about it.  
11 I think there's a way. Mr. Chairman said we break the dam, the  
12 beaver will make it bigger. I don't know about that. If I  
13 pull up a beaver dam, he might not make it right though. Let's  
14 do something about it, thinking about we protect everything.  
15 Fish and also beavers.

16 //

17 But nobody's hunting the beavers right now. Hunters  
18 are no more. I used to hunt Togiak (ph) by sled, 70s, going  
19 over there and come back in three days. That trail go over  
20 seven days, cutting (ph) the snow up, come back, trail ice,  
21 freezing. but we don't do that no more. I don't see anybody  
22 do that any more. Maybe they do, but I never seen them.

23 //

24 But thinking about the killing of fish the people eat.  
25 They're really killing them, like across in Napakiak, there are  
26 big slough almost just like Adonsusan (ph) River. I hear that  
27 they block that, too. Let's do something about it. Let's do  
28 something about it. Let them work right, even a bear --  
29 beaver. We can tell them what to do somehow. Blow these dams  
30 up. He'll understand. And there's only -- I think old people  
31 say that some day we're going to be starvation. I think that's  
32 part of it. That's part of it I think. In fact, we do -- we  
33 said all the moose, caribous and beavers are going to down the  
34 bay. I think they're -- what they're doing is blocking the  
35 rivers so there will be no more fish. Something -- something  
36 is working. Let's try something ourselves. Protect the fish.  
37 People needs it. We all protect everything. Let's do what we  
38 can. I think we can take care of it some way. I hope I'm  
39 talking right.

40 //

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Bill. Robert?

42 //

43 MR. NICK: Now that Ted has presented his proposal to  
44 the Fish and Wildlife, I think maybe the time is right to see  
45 us coming forward to help make proposal for the beaver control  
46 and the beaver dams.

47 //

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Thank you, Robert. If you have  
49 complete proposal to change subsistence regulation, this is the  
50 time to submit that regulation to a member of our team here:

0052

1 Pat McClenahan is one of them. And David Fisher over there  
2 And also John Andrew. If you have a complete proposal, you  
3 could present it, give it to them, and they'll.....

4 //

5 Okay. Let's go down to the next and.....

6 //

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik)

8 //

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

10 //

11 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, 11:15. (In Yup'ik)

12 //

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Let's go down to number ten of  
14 our agenda then. We go down to old business. This is a  
15 request only the highlights. Please provide written summary  
16 include in the notebooks. Please limit presentation to  
17 data/information update and that will be useful in developing  
18 proposal and change subsistence regulations. Please allow time  
19 for question from Council and the public. Please submit your  
20 reports so it would be added in the notebook here. Who will be  
21 the first? Taylor?

22 //

23 MR. ANDREW: On the next page. (In Yup'ik)

24 //

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We continue, go over there, and let's  
26 ask update on federal subsistence fisheries implementation  
27 program, staff, Taylor Brelsford, you ready?

28 //

29 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

30 //

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, it's on -- you could -- on your  
32 packet there, Tab F. Tab F on your packet.

33 //

34 MR. BRELSFORD: For the public, there are copies of the  
35 fisheries presentation on the table in the back. It has kind  
36 of an outline, and the title says update on subsistence  
37 fisheries.

38 //

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Ready?

40 //

41 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, thank you. What I would  
42 like to talk with you this after- -- this morning about is the  
43 update, the current status on the Federal Subsistence Fisheries  
44 Program. This is the one you've heard a lot about over the  
45 last year and a half. Sometimes in the press they call it the  
46 Federal Take Over after December 1st. It is an expansion of  
47 federal subsistence fisheries responsibilities due to the Katie  
48 John decision. I will provide some information in about four  
49 or five different topics. I'd like to provide you some  
50 background particularly for the new members, highlights about

0053

1 how we got to the situation right now.

2 //

3 I could -- the presentation has some more information  
4 about the proposed rule that we went over in some detail last  
5 year. It came out in December of '97, and the responses. Your  
6 Council and your regional -- there were some village meetings,  
7 a lot of input, and I would provide you some information about  
8 what happened on those comments, the response from the Federal  
9 Board. Then I'll talk a little bit about the draft, the  
10 working version of the final rule that would come out after  
11 December, and then I'll finish by saying what the next steps  
12 are before the fishing seasons start in March of 1998 (sic).

13 //

14 So it's about 20 minutes of a presentation, and I would  
15 be happy to stop for questions if anybody says. We may have  
16 more discussion. This might have to go on after the lunch  
17 hour, so I would yield to the Chairman's wisdom, if you would  
18 rather do some shorter items before the lunch hour instead?

19 //

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maybe more like go over and finish up  
21 after lunch.

22 //

23 MR. BRELSFORD: Have discussion after lunch?

24 //

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.

26 //

27 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. I'll do my very best. It should  
28 be fairly simple to follow when you get to the outline part of  
29 the little handout.

30 //

31 The cover letter, the top letter from Tom Boyd makes  
32 one very important point. The last times we met with the  
33 Regional Council, we didn't know what the deadlines on  
34 subsistence fishing was going to turn out to be. We were not  
35 able to know for sure how the State Legislature would respond.  
36 So we -- the last time we met, we talked about more opportunity  
37 for consultation and changes, revisions based on Council input.  
38 But now because the December deadline is pretty firm, our  
39 office has had to really focus and hurry on finalizing those  
40 regulations so they could be before Secretary Babbitt from  
41 Interior and Secretary Glickman from Agriculture in December.

42 //

43 So what Tom said in the top letter is because of the  
44 urgency, the quick schedule, our discussion today is really to  
45 provide you information, but this train is already moving.  
46 Those regulations will go before the Federal Subsistence Board  
47 in the last week of October, and go on to Washington, D.C. in  
48 November. We won't be able to make new changes based on the  
49 discussion today. this is an information presentation.

50 //

0054

1           So let me get to the heart of it. Most of you are  
2 familiar that the Katie John decision found that the Federal  
3 Subsistence Program should include fisheries on certain waters  
4 near, inside, and next to federal lands, so we've talked quite  
5 a bit about the waters that would be affected by the Katie John  
6 decision in the Y-K Delta. It's everything within the outside  
7 boundary of the Yukon-Kuskokwim -- pardon me, Yukon Delta  
8 National Wildlife Refuge and the Togiak National Wildlife  
9 Refuge. It does not include marine waters, so this is inland,  
10 fresh water systems, the inland navigable waters.  
11 //

12           There was a moratorium as we discussed that blocked any  
13 federal action until after December 1st. That deadline is now  
14 coming up very soon. The Governor made a lot of effort, many  
15 people in the Legislature, in the Alaska Native Community to  
16 solve the subsistence impasse or dilemma, and those efforts  
17 were not successful. So at this point, the Government has to  
18 go ahead and follow what the court said about federal  
19 subsistence fisheries responsibilities.  
20 //

21           We had a proposed rule that went out for public  
22 meetings last winter and spring. The proposed rule, proposed  
23 regulations came out in December of 1997, and then there were  
24 public hearings in many parts of the state during January  
25 through March of this past spring. In the Y-K region, there  
26 was a hearing in Bethel on March 3rd. Many of you were  
27 participating in that one. And then the next week in St.  
28 Mary's on March 10th there was another public hearing. So  
29 there's been some discussion in the region to try and build  
30 some basic understanding of where the federal fisheries program  
31 is going.  
32 //

33           Let me talk a little bit about the comments within the  
34 Y-K Region on the proposed rule, and then I'll move on. I  
35 think many of you might remember the things that were in the  
36 proposed rule, so I'll sort of short-cut on that and just talk  
37 about questions raised in the Y-K area.  
38 //

39           In the Bethel meeting in particular there was quite a  
40 lot of testimony. There were about 45 people who came to the  
41 meeting, and about 20 people testified. It was good, lots of  
42 testimony, and the main theme, the main thing that people  
43 emphasized was the importance of fishing as a whole part of the  
44 subsistence way of life. It's not just hunting, it's not just  
45 fishing. All of it fits together as part of the subsistence  
46 way of life, and many people spoke at length about the crucial  
47 importance of subsistence fishing and protecting subsistence  
48 fishing.  
49 //

50           There were some comments that were critical of both

0055

1 state and federal managers not working well enough with local  
2 people to protect those subsistence activities.

3 //

4 One idea was that the Federal Government should  
5 actually go a little further in subsistence fishing  
6 jurisdiction to include native allotments, the water alongside  
7 native allotments. And I have to say that on that idea, the  
8 lawyers in the Regional Solicitor's Office have continued to  
9 say, no, that can't be done. There's no legal basis for the  
10 subsistence -- for federal subsistence fisheries management  
11 next to allotments. So the jurisdiction remains the same as  
12 what you saw last December. It is inland navigable waters  
13 within or next to federal conservation lands, the refuge lands  
14 in this region. So native allotments up above Kalskag, that's  
15 not going to come into the federal subsistence program.  
16 Actually it's up above Aniak, I guess the upstream boundary of  
17 the refuge is Aniak. So there's no change, even though that  
18 was strong testimony.

19 //

20 Many people emphasized the significance of Area M, the  
21 False Pass fisheries, and the potential to harm subsistence  
22 fisheries along the western coast of Alaska. In particular,  
23 there were suggestions that the Federal Government should  
24 provide more research funding for more knowledge about the  
25 False Pass fisheries, and then more successful management  
26 actions could be taken on the basis of better scientific data.  
27 And I think there is a continuing interest as the federal  
28 program talks with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on  
29 making sure that federal budgets don't -- that they add value  
30 to the existing State of Alaska program, that we don't end up  
31 re-doing the same things, but instead federal funding will  
32 supplement or add-on including things like basic research on  
33 fisheries migration.

34 //

35 Another question raised, this was in St. Mary's, was  
36 about how the regional councils could better work together on  
37 the Yukon River in particular. There are three regional  
38 councils on the Yukon River: The Y-K Council at the mouth,  
39 then the Western Interior Council in the middle Yukon area, and  
40 then the Eastern Interior Council up above Tanana. And many  
41 people have said you have to manage the river system as one  
42 whole drainage, not split it up between different councils.  
43 There has to be coordinated management. And one recommendation  
44 was that YRDFA, Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association,  
45 could maybe act like an 11th council to work on the Yukon River  
46 as a whole.

47 //

48 I want to report to you that at this point the Federal  
49 Subsistence Office is not able to make changes in the advisory  
50 council system before December 1st. We felt like there's not

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1 enough time to talk with the different councils, the different  
2 interest groups, and come up with a new regional council  
3 structure that would be the best one. So in December there  
4 will be no change in the regional council structures, which  
5 council works in which area. But we will after December, after  
6 the first steps, have an on-going consultation with the  
7 councils, and a project to identify the best regional council  
8 structure for the new fisheries responsibilities. This  
9 question remains alive. In other words, this is good advice  
10 that will receive further attention after December, but the  
11 priority right now is on getting the rule -- the regulations  
12 put together so that we can start after December 1st.

13 //

14 The final point that was raised in testimony, and this  
15 was a Council concern in the Bethel meeting last spring, was to  
16 really pay attention to careful, simple communication about the  
17 federal fisheries program with the villages on the western  
18 coast. There was some confusion about marine waters, inland  
19 waters, the impact of a Tier II salmon fishery in Norton Sound.  
20 Some people were concerned that that was going to close down  
21 subsistence fisheries in the Hooper Bay/Chevak area, and so we  
22 were asked to be very careful about explaining the federal  
23 program in the villages when it comes into -- when it really  
24 gets started. And that's one that we do intend to work very  
25 closely on. We have some plans for a flyer that would go out  
26 to the villages, and probably some village meetings after  
27 December to explain and answer questions.

28 //

29 By next spring when the new fishery seasons would  
30 begin, at that time we will have a public booklet of the  
31 fisheries regulations similar to the one that we have right now  
32 on wildlife regulations. It will try to explain more simply,  
33 or more clearly what the federal regulations would look like.  
34 We want to make it a user-friendly public regulations booklet.

35 //

36 So just kind of jumping through, that's the status of  
37 testimony and adjustments that have been made in the  
38 regulations based on testimony from the Y-K region.

39 //

40 Now, turning to that section that talks about the draft  
41 -- current thinking on drafting the final rule, I want to  
42 highlight four or five changes since the proposed rule was  
43 discussed with you last time.

44 //

45 The first of those has to do with the jurisdictions,  
46 which waters are affected, and there's a change concerning  
47 Department of Agriculture lands in the national forests. That  
48 doesn't affect the Y-K Delta, so I'll move right on.

49 //

50 More importantly, there are some pre-statehood federal



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1 lands, Nunivak Island would be an example of a federal land  
2 prior to statehood, and some of those pre-statehood federal  
3 lands to include marine waters. It's one -- case-by-case.  
4 Each one of those is specific, so there will be more details in  
5 the final rule to identify the pre-statehood federal lands, and  
6 any special cases where marine waters do come under federal  
7 subsistence fisheries management. Again, Nunivak Island would  
8 be an example, because that was set aside all the way back by  
9 President Roosevelt, and it does include a zone of maritime  
10 fishing -- marine waters just around the island.  
11 //

12 The next item, there was a lot of controversy about  
13 extraterritoriality, and this refers to an existing authority  
14 of the Secretaries to reach off of federal lands if it can be  
15 shown that something happening off of federal lands is causing  
16 a failure of the subsistence priority on the federal lands or  
17 in the federal waters. The State of Alaska and many public  
18 comments opposed any reaching off of the federal lands by the  
19 Federal Government; however, the lawyers say this is an  
20 existing legal power, and there is no change in the final rule.  
21 //

22 I'm going to move down to the paragraph on c&t  
23 determinations. When the proposed rule came out, it had a very  
24 short section identifying the customary and traditional fish  
25 species, and many people commented, especially the fresh water  
26 species, the whitefish, grayling, that those species were not  
27 recognized in the draft version. So there's quite a lot of  
28 change, a much more comprehensive effort to identify the  
29 fisheries -- the fisheries resources where people have  
30 customarily and historically used them. So the c&t  
31 determinations at this point are much more comprehensive as far  
32 as fresh water species. As you'll read in the text, they are  
33 based on decisions made by the Alaska Board of Fisheries since  
34 1990. The Alaska Depart- -- the Alaska Board of Fisheries has  
35 continued to make more thorough determinations about  
36 subsistence fisheries, and we've tried to take into account  
37 additional information, additional decisions made by the Board  
38 of Fisheries, with one important change. The Board of  
39 Fisheries defines subsistence users to include all residents  
40 including non-rural or urban residents, so they have been  
41 adjusted to say only rural residents in these areas would have  
42 c&t for those species.  
43 //

44 The main approach in the federal regulations is to  
45 incorporate State subsistence fisheries regulations, that is  
46 like seasons or harvest limits, so there would be not a lot of  
47 change or not a lot of disruption under federal regulations  
48 after December. The paragraph that talks about rod and reel  
49 and Kodiak king crab, it points out that there are some  
50 adjustments or changes in the State subsistence regs based on

0058

1 previous federal decisions.

2 //

3 The Quinhagak area rainbow trout decisions of the  
4 Federal Subsistence Board are a significant example in this  
5 area. Our Board did recognize rainbow trout as a subsistence  
6 species and did provide for harvest of rainbow trout under  
7 federal regulations several years ago, and that is now part of  
8 the regulations that would come up.

9 //

10 There were some changes in State regs between 1990 and  
11 the present. In our regulations, we're trying to be  
12 consistent, so there have been some continuing technical  
13 changes to use the most current subsistence seasons as the  
14 baseline of these federal regulations.

15 //

16 And then on the final item, there was a lot of  
17 controversy about customary trade, and if you remember, ANILCA  
18 referred -- includes customary trade as part of the definition  
19 of subsistence. It means the limited exchange for cash between  
20 subsistence users, subsistence taken fish. In the proposed  
21 regulations the Federal Government would recognize customary  
22 trade as a part of the subsistence way of life with two  
23 protections:

24 //

25 It -- exchange under customary trade cannot be a  
26 significant commercial enterprise. It cannot be a loophole to  
27 allow a big fisheries business. That's not the purpose of  
28 customary trade, so prohibiting significant commercial  
29 enterprise was part of it.

30 //

31 The other part was to prohibit any sales to licensed  
32 processors or fish buyers. It was to try and separate the  
33 commercial fishing industry from the local customary trade, the  
34 traditional, the historic practices of in the village or  
35 between neighboring villages small scale, localized customary  
36 trade.

37 //

38 That was an extremely controversial question when these  
39 public hearings were held around the State, and there was a lot  
40 of criticism that by authorizing customary trade, the federal  
41 program was going to make a loophole that could lead to a lot  
42 of trouble, particularly on the Yukon River, that some people  
43 might try to sell roe, sell the parts from subsistence taken  
44 fish, and there might be poor enforcement, and it could even  
45 harm the fish populations on the Yukon River. There was a lot  
46 of criticism in the public comments.

47 //

48 At the present time, the regulations that will go  
49 before the Board stick with the version that you saw last  
50 December, to authorize -- to recognize customary trade and

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1 protect it with those two steps.

2 //

3           However, because of the controversy, the Board will  
4 also have an alternative language to consider. And that  
5 alternative is almost like 180 -- almost the opposite. The  
6 alternative that will be before them says customary trade is  
7 closed unless the Board makes a specific regulation region by  
8 region to authorize customary trade in a specific area. So  
9 under the alternative that the Board will talk about, only --  
10 it's closed until opened by specific action. That's a final  
11 decision the Board is going to have to make before these  
12 regulations go up to the Secretary.

13 //

14           MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman? I have a question, Taylor, in  
15 the discussion of customary trade, last summer when I had  
16 enough subsistence salmon for my family, I felt for my extended  
17 family in Hooper Bay, Chevak, Scammon Bay. My mom grew up  
18 there. And every week I heard that they were not catching  
19 anything. And since I had enough, I told my wife one day, I  
20 said, I should just gas up, take my son, my two boats, big  
21 boats, just go down to the Kuskokwim and load up my boats, and  
22 go to Bethel and load up my plane and just ship them out there.  
23 But I was cautious -- there was a caution in my mind that maybe  
24 I'll be breaking the law if I did that. So I didn't do it.  
25 Afterwards when we had dried and smoked our salmon, we had some  
26 backbones of our king salmon, so I did communicate to the  
27 people in that area and I offered to send some dry fish to  
28 them, because we had enough, and I know that it would last  
29 possibly have them as left-overs come June of next summer. But  
30 I ended up -- I always try to help families that -- for  
31 funerals, for potlatches. I just give them, you know, what we  
32 can. So I ended up giving them away, so at the end, you know,  
33 I did not do what I wanted to do. But there was enough salmon  
34 on the river here, I know, because I was -- I fished the right  
35 times and right places for salmon, you know, kinds, I know  
36 where they -- I know where they fish -- I mean, where they  
37 swim, and what time that, you know, they're further closer to  
38 the surface to catch them. So I wanted to do that, just load  
39 up the plane and ship some salmon down, but I was glad that the  
40 Governor did it, you know, with salmon from somewhere else,  
41 because I understand that salmon that was sent there was not  
42 too fresh by the time it arrived there. But can I have done  
43 what I wanted to do and not be cited for any violation of  
44 anything ethically or regulatorily?

45 //

46           MR. BRELSFORD: Of course, we're talking about a future  
47 federal program, so actions this summer would have come under  
48 the regulation of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, so  
49 maybe Mike can help us out on that part.

50 //

0060

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: After this question, we're going to  
2 take a break.

3 //

4 MR. ANDREW: Break for lunch.

5 //

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Right, lunch, and you guys will come  
7 back again after lunch.

8 //

9 MR. COFFING: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'll keep  
10 it short for you.

11 //

12 Robert, the answer is yes and no, as often it is. You  
13 could have harvested fish and sent it to friends and family in  
14 those communities with no problem. That's allowed under  
15 subsistence. You could have harvested salmon, and smoked and  
16 dried them or traded them for other things in those communities  
17 if you wanted to do that, exchange for seal oil or seal or cod  
18 or whatever. But what you couldn't do is exchange it for  
19 money. So within those bounds, you can exchange subsistence-  
20 caught foods. You can catch subsistence salmon and provide it  
21 to other people.

22 //

23 As a follow up to those -- the condition of those  
24 communities, the State working with the Department of Fish and  
25 Game, working with the Division of Emergency Services, and with  
26 fishermen in Kotzebue, did provide to -- let's see, to Hooper  
27 Bay -- I was in Hooper Bay and Scammon and Chevak during part  
28 of this disaster relief salmon for subsistence use lift. And  
29 the State provided about 5,000 chum salmon to Hooper Bay, about  
30 3,000 to Chevak, and about 250 fish to Scammon Bay, with plans  
31 to send some more fish out to Scammon this winter. So people  
32 there did get fish. They were very appreciative of them. The  
33 fish were frozen, nice fat chum salmon, and people were very  
34 happy to get them. People did in fact -- those fish went out  
35 late August and many families did thaw the fish out, cut and  
36 dried them, smoke them and put them up, so the fish got to the  
37 communities after all.

38 //

39 MR. NICK: They were nice and frozen, but I don't know  
40 about the fat part.

41 //

42 MR. COFFING: Okay.

43 //

44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

45 //

46 MR. NICK: One question just popped into mind, is under  
47 the ANCSA Act of '79 where revenues are shared, subsurface  
48 revenues are shared between (indiscernible, coughing) and  
49 corporations, and then a thought just came to my mind, you  
50 know, that in the case of last -- like last summer, when I read

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1 in the Tundra Drums that a friend of mine in Scammon Bay got  
2 seven kings for a year, I went to my wife, and we just couldn't  
3 believe it, 'cause -- and I told my wife, said that, this  
4 Mathew, he's probably have some kids, some family member, so in  
5 that case maybe some kind of a resource sharing option could be  
6 done. Like we have plenty of fish on the Kuskokwim, let's  
7 share some to our friends in Yukon or the coastline.

8 //

9 MR. COFFING: Uh-hum.

10 //

11 MR. NICK: It's just a thought.

12 //

13 MR. COFFING: There are -- Mr. Chairman, there are,  
14 especially in Scammon Bay, people in Scammon Bay as Harry knows  
15 I think, and others of you here, do go up to Black River and  
16 have their -- where they base their commercial fishing  
17 activities and have their subsistence fish camps. Scammon Bay  
18 fared better than did Hooper, or than did Chevak. And I have  
19 friends in Bethel here who are from Hooper who harvested fish  
20 on the Kuskokwim and sent it home to the families in -- this  
21 would have been Scammon Bay particularly, but maybe some of the  
22 other communities as well. Thank you.

23 //

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're going to have a break for lunch,  
25 and you two will come and there will be more questions and  
26 comments. We're going to be back 1:00 o'clock.

27 //

28 (Off record - 11:45 a.m.)

29 //

30 (On record - 1:30 p.m.)

31 //

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: This afternoon we're still  
33 continuation on update of federal subsistence fisheries, and  
34 implementing program, staff, Taylor Brelsford, if you would  
35 like to continue?

36 //

37 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr.  
38 Chairman. I got some advice over the lunch hour that I should  
39 try and put a few jokes in there and make it funny, bring some  
40 lightness and some humor to a long talk about federal  
41 regulations. But ever since I lived in villages 15 years ago,  
42 I always learned to be careful about trying to be funny,  
43 because most of the time I was funny when I didn't mean to be.  
44 And so I'll still be a little careful.

45 //

46 The one time I came down to Bethel with my friend to  
47 buy a new boat and a new motor, and he drove all the way up to  
48 Kalskag, and then he said, well, you've got to learn sometime,  
49 so he let me take the tiller, and we got all the way to Red  
50 Devil, inside of the village, there's a short cut and I never

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1 ran a boat motor over gravel before, so all of a sudden the  
2 motor's kicking up, and I didn't know what I'd done to my new  
3 motor. And just a few minutes later, we get up to the beach,  
4 and there's a few guys going around, and I'm sure my face is a  
5 little bit red, and -- but it's my first trip up the river like  
6 that, so I'm thinking, wow, this was pretty fun. And the only  
7 comment one older guy says was, hmmm, nice prop.

8 //

9 (Laughter)

10 //

11 MR. BRELSFORD: I must have heard that story in the  
12 steambath for the next three years. So I figure about the time  
13 I'm trying to be funny, I'm going to really be embarrassed.

14 //

15 I want to turn to the last section of this report.  
16 It's really kind of the heart of this. It's about the  
17 remaining steps, what would happen between now and December,  
18 and then what would happen after December. So it's on the  
19 second page, bottom of the second page, that says next steps.

20 //

21 Well, let me start by saying that after the Legislature  
22 adjourned in July with no resolution on the subsistence  
23 question, Mitch Demientieff, our Chairman, and Debra Williams,  
24 the representative of the Secretary of Interior in Alaska, they  
25 had a meeting to start this ball rolling. They said, at this  
26 point the focus is on being ready for December 1998, and they  
27 said there's a lot of things we would like to do if we had more  
28 time. More discussion about different regional councils, all  
29 kinds of questions, but the priority, the urgent focus has to  
30 be on finishing the proposed rule, finishing the regulations.  
31 So what you see in that first item under preparing the final  
32 rule is some details about the most urgent work of the Federal  
33 Board right now, and that is finalizing regulations that could  
34 be issued just after December, so you'll see that there's some  
35 steps in Washington. And the Secretaries will sign the  
36 fisheries regulations about December 1st, that's the deadline  
37 at this point. And then in January the regulations would  
38 actually come out in the Federal Register. They would become  
39 legally binding federal fisheries regulations after January of  
40 1999.

41 //

42 After January, then we move into implementation for the  
43 new fisheries year starting next spring, in March, April, May,  
44 when the fisheries begin. The first year regulations are going  
45 to be as close to existing subsistence regulations as possible.  
46 No disruption or minimize the disruption. Existing subsistence  
47 seasons, and where there are subsistence permits, people are  
48 already familiar with that, so we don't want to throw  
49 everything up in the air all at once next year. We want to  
50 make things look a little bit smooth into the first year. So

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1 there's a conscious effort to try and keep things close to the  
2 way they are now for that first year, try and work into a  
3 different management regime rather than being too abrupt or too  
4 sharp in the changes at the first time. It emphasizes that  
5 there's not a lot of time to organize staffing or any new  
6 management system, so it has to be as similar to existing  
7 seasons as possible.

8 //

9 On the next page, it says the regulations for the year  
10 2000. That would be the second year. At that time the  
11 regional councils will have a chance to make proposals or  
12 adjustments in the regulations, but this first year, starting  
13 in March of '99, we're going to try and keep things kind of as  
14 smooth and as simple -- similar to existing state subsistence  
15 regulations as possible. So you guys won't have proposals for  
16 fishery changes, all of that, next year. It would be the year  
17 after that where you would review proposals and make  
18 adjustments in the fishing regulations, to try and improve  
19 them.

20 //

21 Of course, making a new fisheries management program  
22 requires funding, so there's a little bit of information about  
23 the budgeting question. It points out that in the fiscal year  
24 1999, that started in October, it started just this month, the  
25 request -- the requested budget for subsistence fisheries by  
26 the Federal Government was \$9.5 million. That's a very, very  
27 significant sum of money. The current subsistence management  
28 program on wildlife is about half that size, so this would be  
29 like making the whole thing three times bigger. That's the  
30 degree of expansion that is involved. And then in the year  
31 2000 the budgeting target is \$18 million. That includes things  
32 like the Board and the regional councils to work on fisheries,  
33 then all of the science work to monitor fisheries run returns,  
34 the spawning and escapement levels, and then the run strength,  
35 the population levels as the runs return. And, finally, it  
36 will include some funding for law enforcement.

37 //

38 At the present time there is no new money in fiscal  
39 year '99, so the funding for the federal subsistence fisheries  
40 program is going to have to come out of existing programs.  
41 It's going to be redirected from elsewhere in the Department of  
42 Interior or Department of Agriculture. There's no new money,  
43 so this is going to have to be kind of cautious, no spend money  
44 without being very careful about it.

45 //

46 In the year 2000, the President has put new money in  
47 the budget request that goes to the Congress, but the funding  
48 picture is still pretty uncertain. We know something about  
49 what it would take to fund the new fisheries work, but how  
50 that's going to work out with the Congress, that's still yet to

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1 be finalized.

2 //

3         The next question concerns contracting and cooperative  
4 agreements. And many of you have heard about the discussions  
5 of a contract or close cooperation with the Alaska Department  
6 of Fish and Game, in particular to be sure that fisheries  
7 population data is freely shared between the state and federal  
8 managers. We can't duplicate what the State has already  
9 developed over 30 years as far as their fisheries science data,  
10 so we want to cooperate and find some way to make sure that the  
11 best management information is used in both systems. There's  
12 no room for making mistakes, for learning by errors in  
13 fisheries management. We want to make sure that both groups,  
14 state and federal, use the best scientific data available.

15 //

16         It also recognizes here that the tribes have an  
17 important role as partners in fisheries management, so there  
18 are on-going discussions about cooperative agreements with  
19 tribal associations or with individual tribes. This would be  
20 similar to the cooperative agreements that have worked with  
21 AVCP in the Y-K Region, or with YRDFA, the Yukon Delta -- Yukon  
22 River Fish- -- Drainage Fisheries Association. This would  
23 allow the tribes or local villages to work with the managers on  
24 things like counting towers or household surveys.

25 //

26         As far as regional council structures, I mentioned  
27 earlier that this is an on-going question, and it will not be  
28 settled before December, but there's a written commitment to a  
29 further examination of changes in the regional council  
30 structures that might be helpful, and the big goal is to ensure  
31 unified management on the big river drainages, like the Yukon,  
32 where there would be more than one regional council working,  
33 make sure they're working together and have a unified approach  
34 to management.

35 //

36         Staffing and organization is mentioned. Over-all, this  
37 new federal responsibility could involve as many as 70 new  
38 positions. It's a very, very large growth in the federal  
39 responsibilities. About half of those positions would be  
40 fisheries biologists. Over half. And then some would be in  
41 regional council coordination or social science work, and some  
42 would be in law enforcement. But the total picture is  
43 something on the order of 70 positions over the next two years  
44 to staff the federal program.

45 //

46         Then the last item emphasizes again the importance of  
47 cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
48 Federal management occurs in a limited portion of many rivers.  
49 On the Yukon River, for example, if you went from the mouth up  
50 to the Canadian border, you would go in and out of federal



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1 lands six times. And you can't manage a fishery with six  
2 different people doing six different things on the same fish  
3 run, so we have to cooperate with the Alaska Department of Fish  
4 and Game to have consistent management, consistent conservation  
5 all the way through the rivers.

6 //

7         The rest of that section talks about some of the  
8 specifics that are under discussion with ADF&G, with the Alaska  
9 Department of Fish and Game. I think probably the most  
10 important one of those is this idea of in-season management,  
11 and most of you are familiar with the idea of a management plan  
12 being set up before the season starts, and it sets aside an  
13 escapement goal, and then different allocations for the user  
14 groups down the river and out to the mouth. But during the  
15 fishing season, the fish don't always come back at the  
16 predicted level, or the run timing might require some emergency  
17 orders, some quick openings and closings, quick changes. So  
18 the Federal Board is very concerned that we have some way to  
19 work closely with the area biologists, the fisheries man- --  
20 with the State fisheries managers so that quick decisions and  
21 smart decisions can be made in season. So there's no  
22 management agreement at this point between the two state and  
23 federal departments, but there's very serious discussions. The  
24 Chairman of the Board of Fish and the Board of Game, and the  
25 Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game met with the  
26 Federal Subsistence Board two weeks ago to start a series of  
27 negotiations to work out a management plan or an agreement  
28 about how in-season management would be handled next year and  
29 in the years after.

30 //

31         This final item, number four down at the bottom, says  
32 that there will be an evaluation of alternative approaches for  
33 federal/state management. There's some kind of bold ideas that  
34 are under discussion with the State and the Federal Subsistence  
35 Board, contracting with the Department of Fish and Game for a  
36 lot of things, and there is not -- there hasn't been time to  
37 set that in its final form prior to December, but there will be  
38 some on-going discussion between the Department of Fish and  
39 Game and the Federal Board, and we will try to keep the  
40 councils current as those discussions take place in January and  
41 February, after New Year's.

42 //

43         So, Mr. Chairman, that's the conclusion of the prepared  
44 presentation that our office has made. If I could just kind of  
45 summarize what we have here, the court's requirement for the  
46 Federal Government to expand fisheries is in place. After  
47 December 1st, the Federal Government's going to have to meet  
48 the court's mandate, meets the court's direction. You have had  
49 a chance to review some draft regulations and public meetings  
50 about those draft regulations over the last year. At this

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1 point we're change- -- we're taking into account public  
2 comments and preparing the final regulations that will come out  
3 shortly after the New Year.

4 //

5 So what you will see as far as the federal fisheries  
6 question, about December 1st, these final regulations will be  
7 publicized, and after January they will be legally binding.  
8 The changes, the new fishery seasons will start in March, and  
9 they will be as close to the existing seasons as possible.  
10 There will be some conversations with your Council about  
11 regional council structures and some on-going discussions with  
12 ADF&G and reports back to your Council about cooperation with  
13 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

14 //

15 And with that, I thank you for your patience and  
16 attention, and if there are any questions or discussions, I'll  
17 do my best, or John, anybody else here who could help to answer  
18 any questions that you have.

19 //

20 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

21 //

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

23 //

24 MR. NICK: Maybe Mike can answer my -- or maybe comment  
25 on my comment here. Recently or this summer, this fall there  
26 was a closure of subsistence up in Koyukuk region, way up Yukon  
27 for subsistence fishing opportunity. Was that a state  
28 regulation, a state promulgated closure?

29 //

30 MR. COFFING: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,.....

31 //

32 MR. NICK: If it is a closure.

33 //

34 MR. COFFING: I'm not sure of the question, but, yes,  
35 that's out of my area, but I sure want to know about it. There  
36 was -- there were restrictions on the Yukon River for  
37 subsistence fishing. And it had to do -- a lot of it had to do  
38 with fall chum salmon, concern with getting fall chum salmon up  
39 for escapement, so there were some closures and some  
40 restrictions in the middle upper Yukon area. Since then, I  
41 think this week I heard that many of those restrictions have  
42 been lifted. Most of the fish have passed through that area,  
43 and are now up on the spawning grounds, or moving towards the  
44 spawning grounds, so some of those restrictions have been  
45 lifted to allow some opportunity for subsistence fishermen to  
46 go back out and fish for fall chum salmon.

47 //

48 MR. L. WILDE: Robert, some of those restrictions were  
49 self-imposed by the people that use the subsistence area with  
50 consensus of the rest of the villages, so Fish and Game didn't

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1 act alone on the decision to close, because the villages also  
2 and the people that were protecting those subsistence caught  
3 fish that were in the (indiscernible).

4 //

5 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, I -- and Mr. Chairman  
6 probably knows this better than me since he's part of the YRDFA  
7 group, and I'm sure you were on teleconferences and discussing  
8 this with fishermen represented all the way up the Yukon about  
9 some of the closures prior to the Department taking action.

10 //

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Mike, I don't know how many  
12 times we had teleconference all the way up to borderline from  
13 mouth of Yukon. And Lower Yukon, they were satisfied with  
14 their subsistence fishing this summer, and they work with  
15 upriver and Department, also we Lower Yukon fishermen,  
16 subsistence fishermen, we volunteered to cut a few days, four  
17 days a week or something like that, in order to give more fall  
18 chum passage to go through upriver.

19 //

20 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, like I said, I'm new to the  
21 Council, so a lot of this might have been discussed before, but  
22 these regulations that they were -- which you're talking about,  
23 you know, that will be coming about, and staff support or made  
24 for maybe for subsistence or for both subsistence and  
25 commercial harvest of fish?

26 //

27 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you for the question. It's a  
28 very important distinction. The Federal Subsistence Board  
29 would only have jurisdiction on subsistence fishing in those  
30 federal waters, so commercial fishing inside the Yukon Refuge  
31 would continue to be managed by the Alaska Department of Fish  
32 and Game. And above the refuge, above Holy Cross or above  
33 Aniak, when you get out of federal lands, ADF&G would manage  
34 all of the harvest, personal use, subsistence, commercial,  
35 everything in state waters. But inside of federal waters, the  
36 Federal Subsistence Board would only focus on subsistence  
37 fishing. Commercial, sport, all the rest of it would still be  
38 by ADF&G. And that's like the same as wildlife. ADF&G manages  
39 sport hunting even on the federal lands. The Federal  
40 Subsistence Board only implements the subsistence priority, the  
41 subsistence hunting protection on those federal lands.

42 //

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John?

44 //

45 MR. HANSON: Mr. Chairman. So you're saying that  
46 there's going to be two entities, the federal and the  
47 Department of Fish and Game, both operating after, federal on  
48 the subsistence, ADF&G on the commercial part. So when the  
49 federal takes over, it would be like that, or the federal will  
50 also include the commercial fisheries say on the Kuskokwim or

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1 on the Yukon?

2 //

3 MR. BRELSFORD: Again, the Federal Board would not take  
4 over commercial fisheries anywhere on the lower part of the  
5 Yukon, upriver on the Yukon. The Federal Subsistence Board  
6 will not have jurisdiction or management authority on  
7 commercial fishing anywhere, only subsistence -- the Federal  
8 Board will work with subsistence fisheries only, and that will  
9 be in the federal areas, in the federal waters. In our -- in  
10 the Y-K region, that's inside of the refuge or inside of the  
11 Yukon Delta Refuge or inside of the Togiak Refuge. So it's  
12 divided management. There are separate management entities,  
13 and they will have to figure out how to work well together,  
14 because it's one fish population. You've to protect and  
15 conserve the fish populations no matter how many managers are  
16 in there.

17 //

18 MR. HANSON: So, Mr. Chairman? So is there any way  
19 that after December 1, is there any way for the regional,  
20 federal regional board and the Department get together and work  
21 together even if the federal is just working on subsistence,  
22 work together so they can both work on commercial? The  
23 Department of Fish and Game has to be working on subsistence,  
24 so they might as well just get together and work together. If  
25 it can't then it's gone.

26 //

27 MR. BRELSFORD: I think that's exactly the goal by the  
28 Board of Fish and the Federal Subsistence Board. They want to  
29 work together so that the subsistence harvest is protected, and  
30 then the commercial harvest is also protected, a stable  
31 opportunity, stable industry, and then the conservation goals  
32 are met, and they have to work together to meet that goal.  
33 Nobody can do it alone, and I think they under- -- they  
34 recognize that and are trying real hard to figure out how the  
35 local managers can work together in season, and how the two  
36 boards can kind of keep track of what each other is doing so  
37 they're not going in separate directions.

38 //

39 What you're saying about how important it is, is  
40 exactly what those board members were recognizing and talking  
41 about. So some of the details on that, emergency order  
42 authority, some of that, we're going to have to wait until  
43 after January to come back and bring you more details about it.  
44 But this goal of making sure that divided management doesn't  
45 damage the fish, doesn't damage the fish population, that's one  
46 that's very strong by local people and by the board members for  
47 the state and the federal programs.

48 //

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

50 //

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1 MR. NICK: I just want to be reassured and hear it that  
2 this is true. The federal take over of management on federal  
3 refuge, you know, lands, the fish is to assure a subsistence  
4 priority, if the state refuses to consider subsistence as a  
5 priority when reduction of resources, so with that theory, I  
6 would assume that maybe a decision made by two groups, the  
7 commercial interests and subsistence interests in all those  
8 pink coded areas, subsistence will always be a number one  
9 priority for utilization. Am I assuming correctly?  
10 //

11 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, I'll respond a little bit  
12 to that. Both the State Board of Fisheries, and the state  
13 regulations and what the Federal Subsistence Board will do is  
14 put subsistence as a first priority. The State does that now.  
15 There is a subsistence law, and -- so the State does have  
16 subsistence as a priority. The difference is primarily in who  
17 qualifies. I don't want to get into that too much, but just in  
18 a general sense, on the State side, if you're an Alaskan, you  
19 qualify. On the federal regs it's much more finely tuned to  
20 smaller geographic areas or communities of qualification. So I  
21 think the over-all goal here both on the state side of  
22 management with their commercial and subsistence fisheries,  
23 sports fisheries, and the subsistence management of fisheries  
24 is to provide for that priority, to provide also for the  
25 resource, for escapement. If you don't have escapement, you  
26 don't have the fish, you don't have fish for your children and  
27 grandchildren and so forth, so I think as we've seen with I  
28 think a lot of game regulations where the state and federal  
29 regulations have tried to be consistent, to reduce  
30 complication, confusion of people out trying to harvest fish, I  
31 think when it comes to subsistence regulations, the state and  
32 federal regulations are still going to try to do that as much  
33 as possible so that people out on the ground aren't having  
34 their life complicated beyond reason. Does that answer your  
35 question?  
36 //

37 MR. NICK: Yep, sure did. Just one other point. I  
38 consider subsistence in my definition of harvest for human  
39 consumption, and I don't think allowing a chum catch way up  
40 river for dog food, I don't think that's subsistence.  
41 //

42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, if you guys could allow me to  
43 say something? I am -- I work with fisheries in Yukon for  
44 quite a while, and me myself, I'm kind of afraid. I don't now  
45 how you feel about, you state and federal here, one  
46 subsistence, one commercial. In Yukon, up river is the  
47 priority subsistence. You've got to -- I've got to have my dog  
48 feed, that's subsistence. Down river, I've got to have  
49 subsistence and make a few dollars in order to get subsistence  
50 equipment. It's going to be fighting, you watch and see. It's

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1 going to be native and native fight against native. That's the  
2 way I'm looking at it. There is -- must be some way, some way,  
3 let these people understand, because right now that already the  
4 problem is arised that even I myself belong to Yukon Drainage  
5 Fishermen Association. We've got members from mouth of Yukon  
6 all the way to Canada border. Already they're bumping each  
7 other, you know, and sometimes serious, picking each other. So  
8 my comment, I'm kind of afraid something, it have to be balance  
9 soon as possible to let those people understand what is going  
10 to happen, is going to be happen, because I didn't let -- I  
11 didn't want to see native/native start fighting each other  
12 because of salmon resource.

13 //

14 Moose and caribou and bear, it's not a problem right  
15 now. However, the main thing is in river. Just look at the --  
16 just like this summer. This is part of a little taste of what  
17 is going to be happen, because this summer that down river,  
18 lower Yukon, there's no commercial, already disaster request.  
19 What will happen if those upriver people couldn't get no  
20 subsistence? If they couldn't get no people food, if they  
21 couldn't get dog food? Which is the most important going to  
22 be? And both the state and federal that I know the highest  
23 priority is subsistence. So something, it have to be done.  
24 People back there where I come from, I suppose people here in  
25 Kuskokwim, we couldn't quite understand how the fish going to  
26 be controlled. We know subsistence will be the high priority.  
27 How about those people that -- who try to make as a commercial  
28 fishing they come. It's a commercial/subsistence fisherman.  
29 They live on -- that's only -- in Mountain Village, my village  
30 in Mountain Village, I know there are about 96 permit holders.  
31 In the Yukon along itself is 706 permit holder. That's a  
32 commercial permit holder. Now, that was a question, question  
33 myself and try to find out how it's going to -- how it's going  
34 to be. Because our elders continuously telling us, I'm elder  
35 all right, but my older elders, try to work each others. But  
36 our young people that are educated today, they could speak and  
37 they could try to work the things out, and so times it's  
38 controllable in some places. Hopefully that before bad thing  
39 comes, state or federal, let the people understand. Instead of  
40 having two regulation, your foot down on one side of  
41 regulation, one foot on your other regulation, commercial/  
42 subsistence, and don't know which way to step. Make a move. I  
43 think that's very important to our people. Those people, they  
44 understand how the state and federal will control the salmon in  
45 the river. Qu yana. (In Yup'ik) Anybody? John?

46 //

47 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other concern  
48 Harry brought some of it up. On a take for the Yukon, all the  
49 way from the mouth, all the way from the coastline, Hooper,  
50 Chevak, Scammon, all the way up to past Eagle, it's up on the

0071

1 border. About ten, 15 years back, everybody was pointing  
2 fingers at the Lower Yukon, they were taking too much fish.  
3 The Lower Yukon pointing up into the Interior kept saying that  
4 those guys are taking too much fish on subsistence. And then  
5 now we're going to have two different entities handling,  
6 federal handling subsistence, state handling commercial and  
7 probably part of subsistence. And like Harry said, it's -- I  
8 think we're going to have head knocks between the Interior and  
9 the lower part of the Yukon. There's going to be a fight. In  
10 order to avoid the head knocks between the two, Interior and  
11 the lower part, I think we should think of a way to get Region  
12 5 and Region 6 into one, even if they have -- for the Y-K Delta  
13 has -- it's Region 5, that they have council members from the  
14 Yukon, a couple from the Yukon, a couple from Lower Kuskokwim,  
15 from the -- out past the Kuskokwim up into the upper part of  
16 Kuskokwim. Maybe what we could think of is getting either one  
17 or two from the Interior into the Regional Council members,  
18 instead of having them separate from the Y-K area, Kuskokwim.  
19 I'm not worried about the north part, the Seward Peninsula,  
20 because we work good with them when we have to work with them,  
21 but the Interior is the hardest one to work with. Better than  
22 going forth, and lower part going one direction, the Interior  
23 part going the other direction. But that's my suggestion.  
24 //

25 MR. BRELSFORD: I wanted to say that I think once again  
26 both yourself, Mr. Chairman, and Mr. Hanson are offering great  
27 wisdom from a lifetime of watching fisheries on the river. I  
28 hope we can live up to some of the cautions that you raise, and  
29 I certainly will make sure that your comments are made known to  
30 Mitch Demientieff, our Chairman of the Board, and the other  
31 Board members, to kind of keep their candle of hope going. In  
32 these discussions on coordination with ADF&G, I want to say  
33 that this Council spoke very strongly in favor of finding some  
34 kind of cooperation, some kind of coordination for the Yukon  
35 River.  
36 //

37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Thank you, and we're going to  
38 move to other on our agenda. We thank you for your answers and  
39 questions and -- were able to make.  
40 //

41 At this time in your Tab G, on our agenda 10.B., annual  
42 report reply 1997, update. That will be by Andrew, John  
43 Andrew, 1. 97-YK-01 broad head whitefish, akakiik. 2. 97-YK-02  
44 king salmon, taryaqfak. 3. 1997-YK-03 Lower Kuskokwim moose,  
45 tuntuvak. And then 4. 1997-YK-04 possible interagency  
46 cooperation. So, John?  
47 //

48 MR. ANDREW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This letter  
49 which I'm going to read is a response to our Chair from the  
50 Regional Advisory Council, is a response from our Chair from

0072

1 our Federal Subsistence Board, Mitch Demientieff. (In Yup'ik)  
2 //

3 INTERPRETER: John is going to be reporting from --  
4 right from the report that he's going through. He's going to  
5 be reading the exactly the same what we have on -- regarding  
6 the whitefish, king salmon and the moose, and possible  
7 interagency cooperation. That's what he was talking about, all  
8 the thing that was listed on the agenda right.  
9 //

10 MR. ANDREW: The responsibility to respond to those  
11 reports have been delegated to the Board by the Secretaries of  
12 the Department of Interior and Agriculture. The Board met last  
13 year on August 7, 1998 to discuss the annual reports and offer  
14 the following responses.  
15 //

16 Over the past two years, the Board was advised the  
17 Yukon/ Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council has identified  
18 several species resource concerns. I'll just go right into  
19 them.  
20 //

21 The first one was the broad head whitefish, akakiik in  
22 our language. The Unit 18 residents report that broad head  
23 whitefish population is declining in Unit 18. The perceived  
24 decline in akakiik was first raised as a regional issue back in  
25 October of 1994 in the Advisory Council meeting in Bethel.  
26 Specific topics others indicated as issues might be -- or the  
27 reasons might be obstruction of freshwater fish migration by  
28 beaver dams. The other was changes in traditional patterns of  
29 subsistence use, resulting in conflicts among users; issues of  
30 competition among commercial users and subsistence users. (In  
31 Yup'ik)  
32 //

33 INTERPRETER: And what he was reading was right from  
34 the head (ph) that -- on Unit 18 report that the Board  
35 regarding whitefish population decline in lower -- in Unit 18.  
36 //

37 MR. ANDREW: And another thing that he mentioned is  
38 that a lot of time that some people use gear, a shortened gear  
39 type, and.....  
40 //

41 In about 1984 (In Yup'ik).....  
42 //

43 INTERPRETER: He's reading the same perception, decline  
44 of the whitefish with the regional advisory, and changes in  
45 traditional pattern of subsistence regarding the conflict among  
46 users. Oh, John is (In Yup'ik). Dave? Dave? John is  
47 translating at the same time in English and in Yup'ik at the  
48 same time, what he's reading on Part G. He's reading both in  
49 English, and then also translate the same time in Yup'ik.  
50 That's what he's reading right now.



0073

1 MR. ANDREW: And now to second concern. (In Yup'ik)  
2 This was brought up by the AVCP.....

3 //

4 INTERPRETER: Oh, he made a mistake.

5 //

6 MR. ANDREW: In 1984 this was brought up regarding the  
7 mess of the king salmon. They wanted the females go instead of  
8 all the male, so that escapement could be improved.

9 //

10 INTERPRETER: John is reading in Yup'ik first. He's  
11 translating, but then also he's going to be reading it in  
12 English after that. John is reading a report regarding king  
13 salmon.

14 //

15 MR. ANDREW: Taryaqfak, Unit 18 residents report that  
16 king salmon from the subsistence fishery were taken out of the  
17 region. An annual decline of king salmon changed -- caused a  
18 change in commercial fishing regulation in 1984 governing net  
19 mesh size for the Kuskokwim River. The mesh size was decreased  
20 from eight inches to six inches in order to increase the  
21 escapement of the large egg-bearing female king salmon King  
22 salmon have shown an improved escapement over time since 1984.  
23 the Kuskokwim River sport fishery closes July 25. King salmon  
24 are taken in the sport fishery and as a by-catch or incidental  
25 catch during the commercial chum fishery. Under the state  
26 subsistence fishery regulation, all Alaskans residents are  
27 eligible to take king salmon using subsistence net size.

28 //

29 INTERPRETER: John is translating what he had just  
30 talked on in English a little while ago. John is going to the  
31 second part of perceiving problems. John is kind of skipping  
32 to Lower Kuskokwim area, the conflict, regarding conflict.  
33 That's what he was just talking right now, regarding conflict  
34 between subsistence user and commercial users as king salmon  
35 are taken as a by-catch. That's what he's talking right now.  
36 And then he kind of go back to regarding -- he just read the  
37 conflict, all that part, the Board staff, regarding Board staff  
38 will present update on federal subsistence management to the  
39 Regional Advisory Council in the fall of 1998 public meeting.

40 //

41 MR. ANDREW: Then he can skip down to as a result the  
42 Department of Interior and Agriculture have no choice but to  
43 move forward promptly to comply with the court decision on the  
44 Katie John case.

45 //

46 Then he moved down to the third, then he went down to  
47 lower Kuskokwim moose, tuntuvak, and possible interagency  
48 cooperation. He kind of skipped down. He skipped a part  
49 between the conflict between region and sports using up some  
50 (indiscernible) he skipped.

0074

1           Now he's reading the Y-K -- skipped part of Y-K Delta  
2 Regional Advisory Council advocate the multi-agency development  
3 an a cooperative moose management Unit 18. And he skipped on  
4 to where the ADF&G planning effort for the Unit 18 moose  
5 continues, have involved Kuskokwim -- I mean, ADF&G and the  
6 Kuskokwim Delta NWR and AVPC and Regional Advisory Council  
7 representatives, and representatives of affected Unit 18 area.  
8 //

9           Then he kind of skipped down to a second part where it  
10 talks about the current estimate of the moose population for  
11 the mainstem Kuskokwim River and its tributaries, 300 to 400  
12 moose population objective on the up (ph) for the drainage.  
13 Then he kind of went to are estimated at about 2,000 animals on  
14 this area here. Currently this is not an unrealistic goal as  
15 the moose density in the adjacent unit, Unit 19(A) and 21(E)  
16 are estimated between one moose per square mile and five moose  
17 per square mile in similar types of habitat. And then he talks  
18 about carrying capacity do vary however depending on dime of  
19 the year, hunting pressure, predators and vegetation.  
20 //

21           Then he continued on influx of the expanding Mulchatna  
22 Caribou Herd into the Kuskokwim area may help in this,  
23 providing an added resource of the red meat.  
24 //

25           The Board review this as a persistent problem that will  
26 only expand, especially with the continued pressure this  
27 drainage is experiencing. To comprehensively address this  
28 issue of moose management, the Board support a cooperative  
29 management approach for the Unit 18 moose, and will refer your  
30 concern to ADF&G, Y-K Delta NWS and AVCP for further action.  
31 //

32           INTERPRETER: I'm kind of ahead of John right now.  
33 //

34           MR. ANDREW: Thank you again for your effort to bring  
35 these issues forward for Board review. Thanks to the Regional  
36 Advisory Council for their continuing effort to ensure healthy  
37 subsistence resources and adequate subsistence harvest  
38 opportunities. The Federal Subsistence Board and I express and  
39 appreciate you for your work. We have every confidence that  
40 you represent in the most positive way the subsistence users of  
41 your region.  
42 //

43           And this letter is from the Board Chair.  
44 //

45           Back to you, Mr. Chairman.  
46 //

47           CHAIRMAN WILDE: Qu yana. If there are questions  
48 regarding toward.....  
49 //

50           MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman?

0075

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill?

2 //

3 MR. McCANN: He's asking regarding what -- if there are  
4 more people eating now.

5 //

6 INTERPRETER: Alex?

7 //

8 MR. McCANN: And he's -- Billy McCann is talking mainly  
9 about the time that the people from different region take lot  
10 more game than they do and from a different region. Different  
11 region take more of a resource taken from another region. And  
12 sometimes -- a lot of times that certain area would be a place  
13 where population of the certain species would thrive and  
14 repopulate. Now, moose at times you have been hearing that the  
15 population of moose had been going down, and as he's observing  
16 right now the population of moose are declining also. Now that  
17 he himself have a lot of time that they have not hunted the  
18 female moose now, but they have hunted bulls only. A lot of  
19 time, that sometimes -- he know that some that kind of -- there  
20 is no bull around for the female moose to repopulate again.  
21 And they'd like to make sure this is seen -- see if this could  
22 be checked and researched, even research how it could be  
23 checked. How it could be checked.

24 //

25 He was watching side of the Kuskokwim, he had been  
26 waiting for the bull moose, and nearly almost every day he saw  
27 a cow all the time. And he went across to the other side, and  
28 even the cow went along with him to the other side of the  
29 river. And he himself was -- thought that the moose would  
30 attack them, the cow would attack them, but he -- but then he  
31 -- then the cow keep on coming, going after them, even though  
32 that he didn't even bother hunting. He just watched them.

33 //

34 There is lots of cows around nearly every day that he  
35 had seen cows every day, and they need to check this situation,  
36 how they could check comparison to the bull and the cow,  
37 because there's too many cows in this -- the region, to this  
38 region right now.

39 //

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I don't know who could make a response  
41 to that, Mike or.....

42 //

43 MR. McCANN: Is there anyone that was able to answer  
44 that?

45 //

46 MR. BRELSFORD: Give me two minutes, please.

47 //

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think we need.....

49 //

50 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

0076

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

2 //

3 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

4 //

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Robert?

6 //

7 MR. NICK: If I can help to make you understand Bill  
8 McCann's concern, he commented on the allowance of antlered  
9 moose, the bull moose, that he's been -- that hunters have been  
10 locked with just get a bull moose for quite some time now. No  
11 cow moose. And he's wondering if the low number of bull moose  
12 is not allowing for a fast reproduction of new moose, the  
13 population growth of moose. And he used an example of a moose  
14 hunt he did some years back up in the Kuskokwim, way up there.  
15 He said he stayed in camp for two weeks waiting for a bull  
16 moose to emerge from across the river, but every day he saw cow  
17 moose coming in and out. And one day he went across to check  
18 out the tracks, because, you know, those of us that have hunted  
19 many years, you know, we can just by the tracks know whether  
20 it's a cow moose or a bull moose. So he went across to check  
21 to see if the tracks, if any of the tracks he sees on the other  
22 side would be tracks of a bull. He said that most of them were  
23 cow moose tracks. So when he went across, cow moose followed  
24 him, so he got a little alarmed, you know, in the process. He  
25 went back to the Little Boat Slough, started rowing back, and  
26 he noticed that the cow moose just kept following him, even  
27 traveled across the river with him. So he wonders if the  
28 allowance for a cow moose harvest would equalize the  
29 male/female ratio where reproduction can improve and the  
30 population can grow. He said even though we have many -- a lot  
31 of cow moose, you need the male moose to reproduce. Billy's  
32 comments.

33 //

34 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair, I missed the first part of  
35 Mr. McCann's discussions, so I may have missed a little bit of  
36 background information, but as I understand it, the primary  
37 question is he's seeing basically all cows along the river, and  
38 virtually no bulls, and there appears to be a lopsided ratio of  
39 cows to bulls. What I've noticed in my flying when I'm doing  
40 my survey flights during the summer is that I basically don't  
41 see any bulls along the river. I'm seeing them back up in the  
42 mountains. And then as the weather starts cooling, I'm seeing  
43 those bulls starting to travel, as well as some of the cows  
44 travelling off of the river and moving up the tributaries and  
45 things like that. It's very common for bulls and cows to spend  
46 their summers in very different areas and then come together  
47 for the rut.

48 //

49 One of the phenomenon that we -- that both Roger and I  
50 observed and heard from our colleagues in other parts of the

0077

1 State this year is that the moose rut seemed to start rather  
2 late this year. And it only really seems to be going now  
3 instead of in the latter part of September, which is a little  
4 bit more typical for moose.

5 //

6 With regards to Mr. Nick's comment or question about  
7 can you harvest cows in order to bring the bull/cow ratio kind  
8 of a little bit closer, that's generally a bad idea. We have  
9 learned in past experience in the state, what we have -- what  
10 we basically know, as long as you have about 15 bulls, adult  
11 bulls, per 100 cows, adult cows, you have enough bulls in the  
12 population to successfully breed all the cows. You know, it's  
13 only when that ratio drops below that that you start having an  
14 impact, or if so many bulls are being harvested the average age  
15 of those bulls is very, very young, say only two or three years  
16 of age. That tends to have an impact on reproduction of moose.  
17 //

18 But unfortunately we have, and I'll discuss this a  
19 little bit more when we get into my presentation on status of  
20 moose in Unit 18, but we've had such lousy winters the last  
21 three years, we've only been able to do one of our planned  
22 censuses to look at moose and how they're doing in the region  
23 here. So we're kind of behind the eight ball in getting good  
24 information on what's happening out there, but everything that  
25 we have seen in our work, you know, refuge employees, Fish and  
26 Game employees, as well as reports we're getting from local  
27 hunters and fishermen is we're growing moose out there slowly,  
28 but we are growing -- we've got more moose out there than we  
29 had ten years ago.

30 //

31 I hope that answers the question. I don't know if I  
32 got it all or not.

33 //

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Robert.

35 //

36 MR. NICK: Do we have a count then that separates  
37 between male and female?

38 //

39 MR. KOVACH: No, we don't. The only time that we're  
40 able to do our counts out here in the Yukon Delta is in the  
41 deep part of winter, because in order to get the counting  
42 conditions, you have to have a fair amount of snow on the  
43 ground. You have to cover up all the fallen logs and things  
44 like that, and we generally don't get that kind of snow  
45 condition until January, February, March. So that's when we do  
46 our census counts.

47 //

48 What Roger and I have talked about doing is try to set  
49 up some smaller survey areas that we can go out in the fall and  
50 try and get some of this composition kinds of information on a

0078

1 fairly small scale. At least it would give some better idea  
2 than what we have now as to what's happening out there.

3 //

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John?

5 //

6 MR. HANSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. You may not  
7 believe me, on moose, do you ever see a cow that never has a  
8 calf?

9 //

10 MR. KOVACH: I've never seen that, no.

11 //

12 MR. HANSON: Well, if you look real close, a young cow  
13 every year had calf.

14 //

15 MR. KOVACH: Uh-hum.

16 //

17 MR. HANSON: An old cow is what we call a big cow, it's  
18 actually an old one, doesn't have no more cows -- calves.  
19 They're the ones that have that what we call a long neck tie on  
20 their neck?

21 //

22 MR. KOVACH: Uh-hum.

23 //

24 MR. HANSON: They've got that great big long -- a lot  
25 of hunters, when they see a moose, they don't -- they see it as  
26 a cow, but they don't see no calf. But I don't think the  
27 Department of Fish and Game or the federal ones would allow any  
28 shooting on those, but those -- they just wander around with no  
29 bull around them, and just by themselves. And then when it's  
30 time for them to die, they just die off. Do you believe me?

31 //

32 MR. KOVACH: I've heard that a lot both when I was  
33 going through school, and through my career as a biologist.  
34 And I know several people who have worked real hard to try to  
35 confirm that with studies, because many, many of us have heard  
36 this. Unfortunately, to my knowledge, and I'll double check  
37 with Robert, I don't know of anybody who's been able to  
38 document that once a cow gets beyond a certain age she stops  
39 having calves.

40 //

41 I know from some work that was done on the Kenai  
42 Peninsula and up north of Anchorage in the Susitna Basin area,  
43 they've had some, they're very old age cows, did successfully  
44 have a calf, but whether it was due to their advanced age or  
45 whatever, weren't able to actually successfully rear that calf.  
46 The calves died at a very young age, within a week or so of  
47 being born and whatnot. But they were having those calves, you  
48 just -- they weren't just -- they just weren't going and living  
49 beyond that point. But that wasn't consistent for all old age  
50 cows. There was a 22-year-old cow on the Kenai Peninsula that

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1 had twins every year and successfully raised twins every year.  
2 And.....

3 //

4 But I know a lot of people looked into it, and I keep  
5 hearing it, so I'm convinced there's some validity to it, but  
6 it just must be -- my thinking is that it's probably a very  
7 small proportion of the cows that are that way, but enough  
8 people keep saying it that makes me believe there must be some  
9 basis to that. Unfortunately, you know, the funding -- we  
10 never have as much money as we would like to to investigate  
11 things like that to the test of our ability. We have to sort  
12 our dollars out and put them to its best use to answer the  
13 greatest good.

14 //

15 MR. HANSON: Well, maybe I get enough money for the  
16 (indiscernible).

17 //

18 MR. SEAVOY: Maybe I could relay a couple of studies  
19 that I'm familiar with that involved some of the same point  
20 here. Roger Seavoy from Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation.

21

22 //

23 There was study done on the Yukon Flats with radio  
24 collared moose, because they've got wonderful moose habitat up  
25 there. They've got real restrictive harvests up there, and  
26 they're still not producing very many moose, and they were  
27 trying to figure out what was going on.

28 //

29 MR. KOVACH: That's right.

30 //

31 MR. SEAVOY: You probably are aware of the individual  
32 that did this study. And all of the cows that they had  
33 collared, and I think it's pretty close to 100 percent of their  
34 cows, that they were able to follow up on, had calves. And  
35 what they did is they put collars on the calves as well to try  
36 to find out why those calves disappeared real soon after they  
37 were born. And what they found was that particularly black  
38 bears were responsible for taking the calves in that case.

39 //

40 Another study I'm familiar with is on the Tanana Flats  
41 where similar things happen. The cows had calves. Every one  
42 of the cows that they were able to follow had calves. At  
43 nearly 100 percent. Now, I understand that that's not typical  
44 to have 100 percent pregnancy rates. I think more typically  
45 they have 84, 85 percent pregnancy rates, which leaves that 15  
46 percent left over that could very well fit what you're talking  
47 about. How to identify which 15 percent, and whether those 15  
48 percent skip a year and then later on have a calf, I don't  
49 know. You might be able to talk more about that study on the  
50 Yukon Flats or.....

0080

1           MR. KOVACH: Well, yeah, they had 40 or 50 cows with  
2 radio collars, and they were checking those cows like every  
3 other day to see when calving occurred, and capture as many  
4 calves as they could to determine the fate of those calves.  
5 Like Roger said, the vast majority of the mortality was due to  
6 due to black, which surprised everybody. They thought it was  
7 brown bears doing it. Brown bears were taking a very small  
8 proportion. Wolves were taking a very small proportions. It  
9 was black bears that was taking something like 80 percent of  
10 the -- accounting for 80 percent out of the total mortalities  
11 that they were about document and whatnot.

12 //

13           We're fortunate in much of the Yukon system and the  
14 Kuskokwim system here on the Delta where we really don't have  
15 very many predators to get the moose. We don't have a whole  
16 lot of moose yet to support a whole lot of predators, and --  
17 but, you know, there is some predation going on. There's no  
18 question that that is happening. To what extent it is, we  
19 don't know. There's always some natural mortality of newborn  
20 calves that occurs. They'll -- either still births or they die  
21 within one or two days of being born. That is a natural  
22 phenomenon that happens. To what extent that may be happening  
23 out here, we just don't have any clue at all. Roger and I have  
24 discussed I don't know how many times how nice it would be if  
25 we could find the money and a couple of grad students to put  
26 out there and check on this problem, to look at productivity  
27 and what's happening out there.

28 //

29           CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions from the Council?  
30 Thank you.

31 //

32           We go to the next on our agenda.

33 //

34           MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

35 //

36           CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah?

37 //

38           MR. NICK: Taylor, I had a comment on the akakiik. It  
39 was the first item on the report. I recall the meetings that  
40 are referred to here in respect to this letter, and I recall  
41 the efforts of getting people together in the three tundra  
42 villages to discuss the akakiik, and we haven't really -- there  
43 haven't really been any successful discussion among the three  
44 villages in the tundra to develop any kind of effort to  
45 conserve the whitefish that is referred to here, and the lake  
46 southwest of Kasigluk is considered to be the lake where most  
47 of the big whitefish is. And during the last five or six years  
48 efforts have been made to really sit down and talk about what  
49 we can -- what the tundra villages can do so that we don't  
50 totally lose this fish, but we have not been successful. We



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1 tried to get a meeting, a joint meeting together, but to date  
2 other meetings have taken the place of our efforts, and other  
3 activities. But there's a lot of concern. I'm sure that the  
4 Council and Fish and Game and probably Fish and Wildlife have  
5 heard from many people like John Samuelson here in Bethel who  
6 spend I believe close to 30 years in the tundra and is quite  
7 familiar with the patterns. But many people, elders in the --  
8 especially in Kasigluk have expressed many concerns regarding  
9 this fish. But what they always come back to is the doctrines  
10 or the policies, the philosophies of their elders, and one is  
11 -- the main one that they always bring out is that when a  
12 resource is squabbled about by its users, it usually  
13 disappears. And some blame as been placed on the squabbling  
14 among the three villages in the tundra especially. Because  
15 according to a school teacher who looked at the different  
16 whitefish in this part of Alaska, he told me a month ago that  
17 -- of the fish, the whitefish that he has seen caught by people  
18 up there that -- out of how many different species of  
19 whitefish, but he said, I think if I recall correctly, that  
20 there's four or five different species of the eight that are in  
21 the whitefish family.

22 //

23 So I think it is not too late to save the whitefish,  
24 and the broad head, you know, that we're talking about here,  
25 because they're catching it in Negilaq. You know, my cousins  
26 have just spent the last two weeks going down there, camping  
27 and getting their winter supply. And they're catching them in  
28 the Eek River, Enyuk (ph) that goes out to that lake behind  
29 Napaskiak, so they can be saved up there, too.

30 //

31 But I think now that the pink area is where I keep  
32 looking at of federal management of fish after December 1, the  
33 Councils can come to the forefront, and then Fish and Wildlife  
34 is going to come to the forefront for the preservation of the  
35 whitefish. So I think we need to make efforts especially in  
36 those three tundra villages, because Nanlukuk (ph) akakiik, and  
37 akakiik, Disaster River, and akakiik from Putnuskalik (ph), and  
38 akakiik from Nanunahagak (ph), and then from those three lakes,  
39 they claim that they're all different, you know, so different  
40 that is types of -- different species of whitefish, goes to a  
41 different location.

42 //

43 We have a few people still living up in those villages,  
44 my village especially, that has grown up from the time they  
45 started hunting, they seen all the little fries, you know, the  
46 little whitefish, they know where they are. There's people  
47 that know where all the little pike, there's thousands of them.  
48 And so I think that's where they spawn. We have a few people  
49 that know these locations. So utilizing the knowledge of the  
50 elders, and the scientific planning and caring that has been

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1 given up for the preservation, utilizing all those, we could  
2 still have akakiiks.

3 //

4 You know, some years -- or during the past year, you  
5 know, immediately following the -- you know, what I call,  
6 consider the untimely death of Randy Kacyon, you know, there  
7 was a lot of recollection and credit given to his efforts on  
8 the caribou, and the resurgence of the caribou, and then the  
9 moose management and moose numbers were placed to a lot of  
10 these efforts. That's one person. And if we can all as a  
11 council and as the Department of Fish and Game, the Fish and  
12 Wildlife Service, got together and include our elders, we can  
13 develop better plans.

14 //

15 I just wanted to make the comment. Because these are  
16 very -- the resources here in this report are the very  
17 resources for the sustenance, subsistence, survival, existence  
18 of the natives of this area. Thank you.

19 //

20 MR. TIKIUN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to talk about the  
21 moose in the Unit 18 area. Right now the moose populations,  
22 according to what we've seen here, about three to 400 moose in  
23 this area here, that I think we've got the longest season.  
24 We've got from what, September 1 until September 30. Up in  
25 Unit 21(E), which has a lot more moose, and Unit 19 up on the  
26 Yukon -- or up on the upper Kuskokwim, they've got shorter  
27 seasons than we do. So I kind of believe that we should, you  
28 know, for the -- if we want to build a population back up, we  
29 should either cut our hunting season down for this area here,  
30 you know, the pressure is so much on moose. And also we should  
31 take into account the poaching that goes on, and maybe cut the  
32 season down. That's the comments I have. That's all I've got,  
33 Mr. Chairman.

34 //

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more on 10B?

36 //

37 MR. NICK: Just one further comment. Moose populations  
38 in the treeless tundra west of the treeline on the Yukon in  
39 Devil's Elbow area, there -- some years we see more moose in  
40 the tundra, you know, up there. And the years I recall that I  
41 recall that there was moose everywhere in the tundra, also we  
42 had a lot of forest fires in the upper Yukon. So smoke I guess  
43 does drive some of the population shifts. And I was just  
44 wondering if the fire also destroys some of the moose that are  
45 trapped in the fire zone.

46 //

47 MR. KOVACH: Mr. Chair, I can attempt to answer some of  
48 Mr. Nick's question. Small -- on smaller fires, small being  
49 relative in Alaska, 100 square miles or something like that,  
50 what we've seen in other parts of the State is there's

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1 virtually no moose mortality because of the fire. It's  
2 generally small enough, it has enough edge area where animals  
3 are able to escape the fire, and it seems to be a very  
4 temporary displacement. The big fire that happened outside of  
5 Anchorage, what they called the Big Lake fire, I think it was  
6 three summers ago, they were still mopping up the edges of the  
7 fire when some of the Fish and Game biologists were flying over  
8 the fire area to see how much of it burnt and how much of it  
9 didn't burn and so on. And there were smoldering areas, and  
10 there was moose already walking right back through it to get  
11 back into the places that they were chased out from. So in  
12 some cases a very temporary displacement.

13 //

14 With a very large fire we had outside the Red Devil  
15 area last year, the -- some of the Fish and Game folks, who ran  
16 fish were up on the George River, reported an unusual amount of  
17 moose activity all summer long. And, you know, more so than  
18 they'd seen in previous years on the same site. Obviously the  
19 fire's disrupting moose, they're moving, their patterns do  
20 change.

21 //

22 With very large fires that move very, very quickly like  
23 that fire did on some days, it's undoubted -- there's no doubt  
24 that some moose do perish within the fire itself. But most  
25 fires in Alaska do not move very fast, fortunately, and most  
26 animals are able to get out of the way, you know, when it comes  
27 to moose, caribou, beasts like that, you know. They've got  
28 long legs and they're able to walk real fast for the most part.

29 //

30 MR. SEAVOY: If I might add something to what Steve was  
31 saying then, too, I've heard a number of the same sorts of  
32 things that Steve was saying from a number of different areas.  
33 I talked with folks in Holy Cross and Anvik and Shageluk, and  
34 they were attributing an increase in the number of moose around  
35 their area to the fire near Aniak. I talked with folks on the  
36 lowest part of the Yukon from Russian Mission down through  
37 Pilot Station where my wife is from, on down to the coast, and  
38 they were saying that they had more moose down there, and  
39 attributing it to the number of -- you know, to the fire. I  
40 talked with some pilots that were flying between Dillingham and  
41 Anchorage fairly regularly, and they said sort of the same  
42 thing. There were a lot of -- and I was the acting area  
43 biologist for that area for one year that was really a nice  
44 year actually, I was in the area. And the area where the fire  
45 was had moose in it, but not really a lot of moose. Not enough  
46 moose to account for all these other increases. I'm actually  
47 more optimistic than that.

48 //

49 I believe that we're making progress with moose  
50 populations right here. You know, I think we've got moose that

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1 are growing in place. They could probably grow somewhat  
2 faster. Your suggestion about the moose season may have some  
3 merit. There's some political ramifications to that that, you  
4 know, frankly I'm glad I'm not on the Board of Game to have to  
5 deal with some of those things, but, you know, a long moose  
6 season in an area where we have a low moose numbers doesn't  
7 occur in very many places in the state. But the suggestion  
8 that moose are only increasing because of the fire bringing  
9 them in, I think doesn't give the credit to the people here  
10 locally for doing what they've done so far to get this  
11 population to grow. We're -- I'm more optimistic than that. I  
12 think we're growing moose on our own. We could do it quicker,  
13 but I'm pretty pleased at the progress that we've got started.  
14 //

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions from the Council?  
16 Before -- if not, we thank you for your responding to our  
17 questions, and before we get to the next one, we're going to  
18 have ten minutes break at this time.

19 //

20 (Off record)

21 //

22 (On record)

23 //

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda is item 10.C., c&t  
25 task force report from staff. Pat?

26 //

27 MS. McCLENAHAN: Pat McClenahan.

28 //

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, it's under tab H.

30 //

31 MS. McCLENAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today I'm  
32 bringing to you a report on the progress of a working group put  
33 together last spring in response to a major issue that was  
34 brought up at the May 1998 Joint Chair/Board meeting. This  
35 major issue to be discussed was the difficulty that a number of  
36 regional advisory councils and the Federal Subsistence Board  
37 were having making customary and traditional determinations.  
38 And we all know about that, because we've had a number of them  
39 during the last two or three years that have been problematic.  
40 Part of that I believe has been because we were trying to clear  
41 a backlog of proposals that had been on the books since the  
42 early 1990s. And we have proceeded to do that quite  
43 successfully. We are nearly finished with all of our c&t  
44 backlog proposals.

45 //

46 At any rate, the Board would like to come to you today  
47 to ask your recommendations on whether this program, the  
48 customary and traditional use determination program, should  
49 continue, and if so, how these determinations should be made.  
50 I'll be taking your recommendations today. If you will, I'll

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1 run through this brief report and then let's have a discussion  
2 about c&t.

3 //

4 The group which will review our input from today and  
5 they'll take that -- those recommendations that you make to the  
6 Board by December 1st of this year. The group that will  
7 deliberate is made up of Mitch and Fred Armstrong, Bill Thomas,  
8 Craig Fleener, Dan O'Hara, who's the chairman of Region 4,  
9 Sandy Rabinowitch from National Park Service, Ida Hildebrand  
10 from Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, Keith  
11 Goltz and Ken Thompson. Ken Thompson is from the Forest  
12 Service. And this group was formed in response to the regional  
13 council chairs questions that they had about customary and  
14 traditional use.

15 //

16 The first question that we have is why do we make c&t  
17 determinations, and hopefully by the end of the day, or at the  
18 end of my presentation and our discussion, you'll be able to  
19 provide me with a formal recommendation that I can take back to  
20 this working group.

21 //

22 Do c&t determinations protect subsistence uses, or do  
23 c&t determinations restrict subsistence users? That's one of  
24 the questions that I have for you.

25 //

26 Another question is what happens if we don't have any  
27 c&t? If we don't make any more c&t findings, and we make all  
28 rural residents eligible for c&t everywhere? What happens is  
29 in times of shortage, then we would go to something called  
30 Section 804 which is in ANILCA. I don't know if you're  
31 familiar with Section 804, but the process then would be that  
32 we would look at the pool of eligible users and have to choose  
33 among them which people, which communities would be able to  
34 hunt at that particular time. We have never done an 804 in the  
35 past, although we've come close a few times. We've found some  
36 other ways, some other options to deal with shortages.

37 //

38 The decision would be made then on three questions:  
39 One would be the customary and direct dependence on that  
40 resource, for example, caribou. Whether or not you live close  
41 to the resource; and what other resources you had, alternate  
42 resources you might have, for example, moose. An analysis  
43 would be made at that time based on these three topics as  
44 opposed to the eight criteria that we now use.

45 //

46 Another question we have for you is, is there a need to  
47 change the way c&t determinations are made? The c&t task group  
48 developed some options for discussion.

49 //

50 Before we go on, for the sake of the new members, I'd

0086

1 like to go over the eight criteria that we now use, or an  
2 abbreviated form of them when we're writing c&t analyses. The  
3 first criterion is a long-term, consistent pattern of use of  
4 the resource. The second one is traditional and modern seasons  
5 of use. The third one is a pattern of use consisting of  
6 methods and means of hunting and fishing. The methods and  
7 means are efficient and economical. Number four, the harvest  
8 and use of fish and wildlife, subsistence hunting and fishing  
9 areas, subsistence use areas. Where is it that you hunt and  
10 fish, and where did this take place traditionally? Number  
11 five, traditional and modern ways of preparing and keeping fish  
12 and wildlife. Number six, handing down knowledge about hunting  
13 and fishing skills. How is that done, and is it still done the  
14 same way it was traditionally? Number seven, sharing and  
15 distribution of subsistence food in the community. Number  
16 eight, the wide variety of fish and wildlife subsistence  
17 resources used traditionally and today. One of the definitions  
18 of subsistence is that it's an integrated thing. We talked  
19 about it earlier today, it isn't just taking caribou, but it's  
20 taking caribou and fish and berries and a wide variety of  
21 resources. That's a subsistence way of life.

22 //

23 This is what we use today to do our customary and  
24 traditional use analyses. We particularly pay attention to  
25 items one and four.

26 //

27 Now there have been some suggestions, different ways we  
28 might change it if we were going to change the way we do c&t.  
29 There's a modified factor approach that reduces the number of  
30 factors, and if you'll look at page three here under tab H, it  
31 says modified factor option. Here are some revised factors  
32 that we might use. It still keeps the cultural context of the  
33 analysis, but there aren't as many items to write about, to  
34 research.

35 //

36 Another one is based on council recommendations. The  
37 council sets the criteria and makes the recommendation for c&t.  
38 It would be in your hands.

39 //

40 Another one, on page four here, would be to assign c&t  
41 by unit and surrounding units. For example, you would have  
42 positive c&t in Unit 18, and all of the adjacent units. For  
43 example, Unit 22(A) is adjacent, Unit 19 is adjacent, Units  
44 17(A) and (B) are adjacent. Is that correct? Yeah, I think  
45 so. Am I forgetting one? There may be one other up there.

46 //

47 And then there's another one. Not to do c&t at all.  
48 And that that would putting us into the 804 process that I  
49 mentioned to you if there's a shortage. Nothing would be done  
50 until that time.

0087

1           And you may be able to think of some other options,  
2 some other ways that c&t might be done that we haven't thought  
3 about, and please feel free to suggest those ways. And with  
4 that, I would like you to.....

5 //

6           Oh, another option would be to choose from -- to choose  
7 a variety of ways to do it. You don't have to choose just one.  
8 You could do it -- or a combination of the ones that I  
9 mentioned.

10 //

11           But I would like to seek from you today a council  
12 motion and a recommendation on what you'd like to do with  
13 customary and traditional use. And I -- if you want to make  
14 some suggestions, I can write them here or get some help?  
15 Maybe Dave will help me.

16 //

17           CHAIRMAN WILDE: Dave?

18 //

19           MS. McCLENAHAN: Do you want to write? Do you have any  
20 questions for me about anything I said? Some of you might be a  
21 little confused if you're not too familiar with c&t. Others of  
22 you know exactly what I'm talking about with difficulties with  
23 c&t. We can think of some examples.

24 //

25           MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I don't think we should go  
26 to eliminate c&t. I think there is a need for c&t, especially  
27 in some of the areas where different species are not that  
28 plentiful.

29 //

30           CHAIRMAN WILDE: John?

31 //

32           MR. HANSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know,  
33 talking about c&t, I think -- well, first you gave eight.....

34 //

35           MS. McCLENAHAN: Factors, uh-hum.

36 //

37           MR. HANSON: That's on the statutes. That is the eight  
38 ones, and then here you have just five?

39 //

40           MS. McCLENAHAN: That would be a modified. That's a  
41 suggestion about a modified approach. The eight factors  
42 actually weren't listed in your book, but I can get you a list  
43 of the original eight if you'd like.

44 //

45           MR. HANSON: No, I know the.....

46 //

47           MS. McCLENAHAN: Yeah. Okay.

48 //

49           MR. HANSON: .....State factors. When I was on the  
50 Fish Board we.....

0088

1 MS. McCLENAHAN: Right. Yeah.

2 //

3 MR. HANSON: .....went through the eight criteria.

4 //

5 MS. McCLENAHAN: Right. Ours are pretty close to that  
6 I think.

7 //

8 MR. HANSON: This c&t, I don't think we need to modify,  
9 or that's my view. Just let it stay the way it is.

10 //

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: What is the Board finding -- is the  
12 Board finding problems with the methods that you're using right  
13 now? Is that the reason why they.....

14 //

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think some councils are frustrated,  
16 because of deferred proposals. We've -- some of our problems  
17 in this region have been, and I don't know that this Council is  
18 unhappy. I mean, we've proceeded and we've taken care of  
19 problems that we've have and we're continuing to do that  
20 through things like the studies that we're going to have with  
21 Mike Coffing. But we've come upon in this region lack of  
22 information, written information. This region is rich in oral  
23 tradition, but a lot of it is not written down and recorded  
24 yet. And so when researchers go to look in the books, written  
25 material, the information is not there. And we've turned to  
26 the elders as in the case of Hooper Bay, and Scammon Bay, and  
27 Chevak recently. We've turned to the elders for additional  
28 information that was not yet recorded fully. That requires  
29 sometimes that we put off something for a year.

30 //

31 And Akiachak is another example, where they've  
32 requested a c&t, but we haven't had full information. We've  
33 put theirs off until we complete a study with ADF&G and  
34 Akiachak on some other issues. Caribou, moose, brown bear.  
35 Caribou and moose I guess are left. Brown bear and black bear  
36 are taken care of.

37 //

38 But those are some of the issues I think, that people  
39 don't want deferred proposals essentially, for whatever reason.

40 //

41 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

42 //

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

44 //

45 MR. NICK: Around here, I'm thinking of past -- I think  
46 last year, the c&t process, and having some weight factor to  
47 the recommendations of the regional councils, and local users I  
48 think is important. And I -- here's an example, the Goose  
49 Management Plan.

50 //



0089

1 MS. McCLENAHAN: Uh-hum.

2 //

3 MR. NICK: Through voluntary -- through the voluntary  
4 decision to curtail the take of the endangered goose  
5 populations, the users in the coastal areas and the tundra were  
6 able to increase the population. I think in -- the same holds  
7 true for other species, of the nonmigratory. And I see a very  
8 important element in utilizing local participation, because in  
9 some villages, the villages in this area I think question vary  
10 in how, you know, like in other factors of survival, like  
11 employment, and assistance through federal and state programs.  
12 So we need to, I guess, look at -- continue to look at factors  
13 to determine who'd be users. To me that is real subsistence  
14 priority. And above all, consideration needs to be made those  
15 families that 12 months of the year live off the resources of  
16 the land, and the river, waterways, that they utilize to  
17 acquire their fish species.

18 //

19 So the second -- the eight factor approach and the  
20 regional council recommendations I think to me would engender  
21 the least disagreements among all users. To eliminate c&t as I  
22 read here, you know, in brackets, in boxes here, would open all  
23 rural residents opportunity to utilize the resources. But all  
24 rural residents don't have the same opportunity to provide food  
25 for the table for their families, even though they're rural  
26 residents. So as a new member of the council, and being from a  
27 village, and for years having observed, and living that  
28 lifestyle myself, I -- like I think we need to continue to  
29 consider factors to determine use, whether it be customary or  
30 traditional.

31 //

32 MS. McCLENAHAN: Uh-hum.

33 //

34 MR. NICK: When we need to feed -- when families,  
35 hunters need to feed families, they do not do it by customary  
36 or traditional. They're doing it for survival.

37 //

38 MS. McCLENAHAN: Uh-hum.

39 //

40 MR. NICK: So I think that should come first.

41 //

42 MS. McCLENAHAN: Thank you.

43 //

44 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I think prior -- I mean,  
45 in the other discussions we've had with c&t, we've always  
46 considered the areas where people live and how it would be to  
47 -- I don't want to throw another cog in the wheel, but a  
48 council recommendation option, and the units, surrounding units  
49 option, how it would be to -- how would it be to combine those  
50 two, to make a.....

0090

1 MS. McCLENAHAN: To combine the units, surrounding unit  
2 and.....

3 //

4 MR. L. WILDE: The council recommendation option.

5 //

6 MS. McCLENAHAN: And council recommendation option.

7 //

8 MR. L. WILDE: I mean that we've always done it that  
9 way before, we've never had any -- we never segregated from --  
10 we've always based our c&t's on need. I mean, as far as I've  
11 been on this Council, we've never refused c&t to anybody that  
12 we thought -- you know, no matter where they lived because of  
13 the teachings of our elders. If a person is hungry when he  
14 comes to your area, make sure you help him to get what he  
15 needs. And that's what we've always used. And the closest  
16 thing I can come to that is the combination of this Council  
17 recommendation option and unit and surrounding units option.

18 //

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maybe just hold you for a while and I  
20 want to recognize and also it's my privilege to recognize my  
21 (In Yup'ik) Lucy Sparck. (In Yup'ik) Glad to have you. (In  
22 Yup'ik).

23 //

24 MS. McCLENAHAN: Any more?

25 //

26 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, if I can just make one  
27 comment? I don't know if this -- if what I'm going to say is  
28 going to be any part of determinations and procedures, and take  
29 and who can go there. Some -- there is a big area right there  
30 in pink. Some years in the western part of that, subsistence  
31 food items are scarce, so we go further north or further south.  
32 I sometimes go along -- this last trip I made to catch my moose  
33 was almost 200 miles from where I live. So I think in order to  
34 recognize the subsistence needs of someone in Lutop (ph),  
35 someone in English Bay, they should not have a territory,  
36 basically they should be able to go to any part of federal  
37 lands, to go catch their subsistence foods. So that part only  
38 I would I guess not be in favor of in the -- as a factor for  
39 subsistence privilege -- hunting privilege.

40 //

41 MS. McCLENAHAN: Then you would prefer no c&t? In  
42 other words, all rural residents would have a positive c&t in  
43 all federal lands in Alaska? That.....

44 //

45 MR. NICK: You've got me confused.

46 //

47 MS. McCLENAHAN: That would be -- the situation would  
48 then be that there would be no discrimination among users as  
49 far as locations until there was a local shortage, in which  
50 case we would enter into an 804 situation.

0091

1 MR. NICK: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think -- well, kind of  
2 backtracking, think, you know, what you just said, because  
3 maybe I don't fully understand the process here?

4 //

5 MS. McCLENAHAN: These are -- they're very difficult.

6 //

7 MR. NICK: Yeah.

8 //

9 MS. McCLENAHAN: They're not easy. Each of our choices  
10 has some ramifications.

11 //

12 MR. NICK: So until I fully understand the process  
13 here, I'll reserve my right to make a preference.

14 //

15 MS. McCLENAHAN: Any other thoughts?

16 //

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John?

18 //

19 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, let  
20 me go back to when Alaska was purchased by U.S. from Russia.  
21 1867. There's a stipulation in the book that when U.S. bought  
22 Alaska that said you have to take care of the native people on  
23 their subsistence needs, and it doesn't say these native people  
24 have c&t. It doesn't say that. It said take care of them when  
25 you buy Alaska. So the c&t, I'd rather leave it just the way  
26 it is without modifying it or units or surrounding or customs.  
27 A long time ago when native people that lived there learned the  
28 Russian -- through the Russian hands, they used to travel from  
29 the Yukon all the way over to Bristol Bay, all the way up  
30 north, to get their food when there's hardly any food in their  
31 area. When ANILCA came about, then all this stuff, the c&t and  
32 all that started pouring in.

33 //

34 MS. McCLENAHAN: Uh-hum. Region (ph) (indiscernible)  
35 from that.

36 //

37 MR. HANSON: Yeah. So I think as far as I'm concerned,  
38 the c&t can stay. That will help when the resources are in  
39 short.

40 //

41 MS. McCLENAHAN: Uh-hum. Okay.

42 //

43 MR. HANSON: That way that the people that utilize the  
44 resources won't be locked into something to -- that they didn't  
45 expect.

46 //

47 MS. McCLENAHAN: Uh-hum.

48 //

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

50 //

0092

1 MR. NICK: I sometimes go jump (ph) in here. On second  
2 thought, I'd like to make a comment and bring back my memory of  
3 a tape I listened to, an elder of what happens in the days of  
4 famine in the old days when there was no government, no agency  
5 to come around to help. That -- I might still have that tape  
6 that my father recorded of an old man that talked about what do  
7 people do when there's no food, no fish, and he stated that in  
8 times of shortage, even villages close to each other start  
9 taking care of their own people, and it even got to the  
10 families, that if you have nothing to eat, nothing to catch,  
11 you can go to your brother in the next village, and walk around  
12 by the house when nobody in the house will ask you to come in  
13 and eat, you leave. So that statement is c&t with factors.  
14 //

15 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes.  
16 //

17 MR. NICK: So I think knowing from what I've heard, or  
18 what happens, I think the people -- you know, the designers of  
19 the way that c&t's, you know, like my friend Lester says, kicks  
20 in, I think is in line with what happens when there's shortage.  
21 So with that, I would agree with Mr. Hanson that the c&t with  
22 the factor approach, and the eight factors that you outlined  
23 are facts. For lack of a better method, you know, that would  
24 be what we would use today. What I would support.  
25 //

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Billy?  
27 //

28 MR. McCANN: Yeah. I don't think if the starvation  
29 comes, nobody's going to have regulations. I don't think so.  
30 If somebody needs to eat, they're going to get it, no matter  
31 who it is. That's what it is. No matter what color he is, he  
32 might be colored people or Japanese or white man or -- we all  
33 eat. I don't think there's any -- going to be any law if  
34 starvation comes. The law might go after them, there might be  
35 shot and eat, eat his meat. Starvation I've been hearing a  
36 long time ago is tough life. They eat anything, anything that  
37 they're not supposed to eat. That's why every time we're  
38 talking about something, the law changing. We don't have to  
39 change too much law, specially subsistence. So I don't think  
40 there's going to be any law if the starvation comes. They're  
41 going to get something to eat. We all know that. No matter  
42 who we are, we all know that. We've got to eat. So let's  
43 leave it the way it is. We've got tough law already anyway.  
44 It's better to leave it the way it is now, because if we make  
45 it too deep, starvation comes, we'll have problems. Nobody's  
46 going to follow the law in starvation. So the way it is, it's  
47 better off, leave it there. And don't make any more  
48 regulations or law. We've got enough already. We protect the  
49 resources already. We protect them already. We've got enough.  
50 We do the best we can. If we make it deeper, it would be

0093

1 problem again. Thank you.

2 //

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, if you could give me opportunity  
4 to say something towards c&t. I think the c&t is something  
5 that give opportunity, anyone could have a question mark to  
6 have customary and traditional use. Take this for example:  
7 Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay. We sure had a problem.  
8 There is some saying that Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, they  
9 never go out hunting, or they never has been hunting for  
10 caribou. They fish. There wasn't c&t. Right now those  
11 villages were left out, even though they -- long time ago their  
12 ancestor they used to go out hunting. I think c&t is very  
13 important. It should be there, leave it there. Today Chevak,  
14 and Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, they had opportunity like their  
15 ancestor, they could go out wherever there is a caribou, they  
16 could go out and hunt. Thank you. (In Yup'ik).

17 //

18 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman?

19 //

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah?

21 //

22 MR. CHURCH: I've got a question here. For instance,  
23 if a species of animal that is not unique to a certain area  
24 moves into that area, and if from what our elders say in that  
25 area, in that community could remember they have not had a use,  
26 how will you determine whether or not the residence of that  
27 community or that area can utilize that animal for subsistence  
28 purposes?

29 //

30 MS. McCLENAHAN: We have an example of that right now  
31 with the six communities, Paul John's community and five others  
32 nearby, that don't have a positive c&t for caribou in Unit 18.  
33 Caribou have been absent for at least 100 years that we know  
34 of. And yet the caribou are starting to move back into certain  
35 areas, and they think that they would like to have a c&t for  
36 caribou. If caribou were in the area over 100 years ago, and  
37 people were living in those six communities or nearby, do you  
38 think they hunted caribou? Knowing what you know about the  
39 customs of Yukon-Kuskokwim people, and subsistence lifestyles,  
40 do you think they hunted caribou?

41 //

42 MR. CHURCH: I believe that people hunted anything that  
43 would be available in their area whenever they were hungry.

44 //

45 MS. McCLENAHAN: And we think that there may be some  
46 evidence, archaeological evidence perhaps, or some other  
47 evidence that we have not yet uncovered about it, and so Mike  
48 Coffing from ADF&G, we're going to work together, and we hope  
49 to have some studies in that area to answer that question so  
50 that after the study is finished, then there will be a proposal

0094

1 for a positive customary and traditional use determination for  
2 caribou for those six communities, or the ones that we study.  
3 And it will come before this body, this council, and then  
4 before the Board. Does that help to answer your question?

5 //

6 MR. CHURCH: (Nods affirmative)

7 //

8 MR. McCANN: So why separate it then?

9 //

10 MS. McCLENAHAN: Separate it? Why.....

11 //

12 MR. McCANN: Yeah, why some -- those people are not --  
13 cannot get their c&t? Why is it separated in the beginning?

14 //

15 MS. McCLENAHAN: Well, I think that it was simply that  
16 nobody ever mentioned caribou. Nobody had thought about  
17 caribou at the time. I wasn't there, so I don't know why the  
18 decision was made the way it was. There was no evidence at the  
19 time, and so they just -- they were left out. Maybe everybody  
20 assumed they just hunted seals. I don't know. I really don't  
21 know.

22 //

23 MR. McCANN: It shouldn't be -- they shouldn't be left  
24 out. It should be enjoyed, because they have them like us up  
25 here. They're living. Sometimes -- something wrong somewhere.  
26 I don't know why.

27 //

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more.....

29 //

30 MR. McCANN: It shouldn't be separated.

31 //

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Could be.....

33 //

34 MS. McCLENAHAN: Could we get -- can we get -- would  
35 you like to make a proposal here? Would you like to vote on a  
36 recommendation for the committee about c&t? If you.....

37 //

38 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, the reason -- correct me  
39 if this is -- if what I'm saying is, you know, I -- but the  
40 reason why this committee was formed was because some of the  
41 people on this group thought that the eight points were  
42 cumbersome in some cases?

43 //

44 MS. McCLENAHAN: I think that maybe.....

45 //

46 MR. L. WILDE: And I think some of those people that  
47 are saying that it should be -- remain the same are the same  
48 people who thought that they were cumbersome in the beginning.

49 //

50 MS. McCLENAHAN: Oh, I don't know.

0095

1 MR. L. WILDE: And, you know, you were directed to do  
2 something that the Council wanted to do at the time, but as far  
3 as this -- it seems that as far as this Council is concerned,  
4 that the method used prior to discussion of the changes in  
5 determining c&t, it seems that it is exactly what they want. I  
6 don't know. But that's what I feel. You know, I feel.  
7 //

8 MS. McCLENAHAN: I know that some other councils, some  
9 other councils brought up concerns. It wasn't just our  
10 Council, but other chairmen.  
11 //

12 MR. L. WILDE: But I was there when I heard it.  
13 //

14 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yeah. Okay. Is there a consensus?  
15 //

16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: So what is your -- what you need from  
17 this Council?  
18 //

19 MS. McCLENAHAN: Would you like to make a motion about  
20 what you.....  
21 //

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Leave the c&t there?  
23 //

24 MS. McCLENAHAN: What your.....  
25 //

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum.  
27 //

28 MS. McCLENAHAN: And maybe there is not a consensus  
29 here, but.....  
30 //

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John?  
32 //

33 MR. HANSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I'd  
34 like to make a motion concerning the c&t, that this Council  
35 recommends not to obstruct the c&t that's in place, just leave  
36 it the way it is. (In Yup'ik)  
37 //

38 MR. McCANN: I second the motion.  
39 //

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion is leave the c&t the way it  
41 is right now. The motion by John Hanson, and the second by  
42 Billy McCann. If there is any discussion.....  
43 //

44 MR. McCANN: Question.  
45 //

46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: .....towards c&t, and the question's  
47 been called for. I'm going to request a roll call.  
48 //

49 MR. NICOLAI: Robert Nick?  
50 //

0096

1 MR. NICK: Yes.  
2 //  
3 MR. NICOLAI: Paul Manumik, Sr., absent. Myself, yes.  
4 Fritz George, excused. Willard Church?  
5 //  
6 MR. CHURCH: Yes.  
7 //  
8 MR. NICOLAI: Billy McCann?  
9 //  
10 MR. McCANN: Yes.  
11 //  
12 MR. NICOLAI: James Charles?  
13 //  
14 MR. CHARLES: Yes.  
15 //  
16 MR. NICOLAI: John B. Thompson, Sr., excused. Lester  
17 Wilde?  
18 //  
19 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.  
20 //  
21 MR. NICOLAI: John Hanson?  
22 //  
23 MR. HANSON: Yes.  
24 //  
25 MR. NICOLAI: Thadius Tikiun, Jr.?  
26 //  
27 MR. TIKIUN: Yes.  
28 //  
29 MR. NICOLAI: Paul John, excused. And Chairman Wilde?  
30 //  
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. The motion.....  
32 //  
33 MR. NICOLAI: Nine yes, three excused, one absent.  
34 //  
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion carried. We leave that c&t  
36 where it is.  
37 //  
38 MS. McCLENAHAN: Thank you very much.  
39 //  
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Before we go to next item, I  
41 would like to also introduce Rich.....  
42 //  
43 MR. NICK: Cannon.  
44 //  
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Rich Cannon. Will you give us  
46 who you are and where you're from?  
47 //  
48 MR. CANNON: Thank you.  
49 //  
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Your responsibility.



0097

1 MR. CANNON: Thank you. My name is Richard Cannon, I  
2 work with.....

3 //

4 COURT REPORTER: Could you come over to the microphone  
5 so we could hear you?

6 //

7 MR. CANNON: Sure.

8 //

9 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

10 //

11 MR. CANNON: I want to thank the Council and Harry and  
12 the other members. My name is Richard Cannon. I work with the  
13 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries  
14 Division. I'm the regional management supervisor for the AYK  
15 Region, and work with many of you on fisheries, commercial and  
16 subsistence fisheries in your areas. Thank you, Harry.

17 //

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Next item will be 10.D.  
19 Go to tab I. 1998 supplement to the operations manual,  
20 alternate member. I ask Andrew.

21 //

22 MR. ANDREW: Quiana. 1998 supplement to the operations  
23 manual on alternate members was established after meeting with  
24 all the ten regions. The Secretaries of the Interior and  
25 Agriculture established alternates as part of the membership  
26 section of the charters. That means this was an addition to  
27 the charters of each region. Out of the ten statewide chart-  
28 -- out of the ten statewide regions, four regions requested  
29 alternates. One was Kodiak/Aleutian, the other one was Yukon-  
30 Kuskokwim Delta, that's our Council, and Seward Peninsula and  
31 North Slope. The appointments were made for those positions in  
32 September of 1998. (In Yup'ik)

33 //

34 The next -- what is the role of an alternate? An  
35 alternate serves as a regional council member only in the event  
36 that a regular council member is unable to attend a meeting.  
37 The main reason for the addition of alternates is to ensure the  
38 widest possible regional representation at every council  
39 meeting. And the alternate is John Hanson, one of the  
40 alternates is John Hanson, and Billy McCann from Bethel. If  
41 any one of the regional council members cannot attend one of  
42 these or both of them will attend. If any of the regional  
43 council members cannot attend any of the meetings, they will  
44 contact these alternates and ask them to attend the regional  
45 council meeting on their behalf.

46 //

47 The main reason for the addition of alternates is to  
48 ensure the widest possible regional representation at every  
49 council meeting. The addition of alternates also allowed for  
50 flexibility for council members to miss an occasional meeting.

0098

1 There are four members absent from the Council. And because  
2 they're appointed by the Secretary, they have authority to vote  
3 on -- during meetings, and the travel, they will be -- they  
4 will have opportunity to receive per diem and travel during the  
5 time they attended meetings.

6 //

7 And they have opportunity to present from their  
8 positions any time they want from the position of an alternate.

9 //

10 Those -- there are four charters which were considered,  
11 Kodiak/Aleutian Island, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Seward Peninsula  
12 and North Slope. They are -- requested alternates.

13 //

14 In 1998 alternates have term of two years for one of  
15 them, and one of them for one year. McCann's term will be.....

16 //

17 INTERPRETER: I'm a little bit confused.

18 //

19 MR. ANDREW: If any of the two alternates wish to run  
20 for the council membership, they can apply for council  
21 membership by filling out the forms. A council member can  
22 request an alternate that -- and that attend the meeting in his  
23 place. Additional benefits and perspective on issues, getting  
24 more people involved with the Federal Subsistence Management  
25 Program, and getting information on subsistence issues back to  
26 more Alaskans in the region.

27 //

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-hum. (In Yup'ik)

29 //

30 INTERPRETER: The rest of it is written in the  
31 document.

32 //

33 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik) Thank you.

34 //

35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

36 //

37 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

38 //

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

40 //

41 MR. NICK: I have a question, I guess I don't know who  
42 can answer it. Maybe Taylor or any member of the Fish and  
43 Wildlife staff. By instituting this alternate member, to me I  
44 would under- -- take that as that there would be no absence  
45 rule on my point? I'm appointed for a three-year term, so if  
46 I'm unable to attend a number of meetings, there's no maximum  
47 or minimum that I can be absent, which when I'm absent if I  
48 inform one of the alternates, that he would take my place for  
49 that meeting? So there's no absence rule on my part? 'Cause  
50 my experience with serving on -- in appointed positions, that

0099

1 they say that -- some boards say that if I'm absent so many  
2 times, that I'm no longer a member of the board, that I will be  
3 replaced. But in this case since the Secretary's going to  
4 allow an alternate to take my place, then there's no limit to  
5 how many times a member can be absent?

6 //

7 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman?

8 //

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

10 //

11 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik) On our regular charter  
12 policy, we have -- it says if you miss two meetings that are  
13 unexcused, you're automatically off the council, but since  
14 alternates are being new and we don't have a current policy on  
15 how many numbers they can be absent, but I figure that it will  
16 probably like a regular membership, regular membership, where  
17 it's excused or unexcused.

18 //

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Taylor?

20 //

21 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I could add just one  
22 word to that. The charter does identify two unexcused absences  
23 as a cause for action. It's not automatic. The Secretary  
24 makes the appointment, so the Secretary would actually have to  
25 withdraw an appointment. We have never in six years with the  
26 Regional Council gone that far. Most of the time where there  
27 have been absence problems, the Council Chairman has spoken  
28 with a member and usually they would withdraw voluntarily, step  
29 down, before we write letters to Washington and ask Secretary  
30 Babbitt to write a letter withdrawing an appointment. We have  
31 had several informal solutions where chairmen have spoken with  
32 a member and there's been a voluntary resignation. That's a  
33 more -- a less embarrassing way to resolve the problems.

34 //

35 And I would urge the Council to continue to look at it  
36 from a problem solving standpoint first. If there is a problem  
37 with attendance, then the Council can ask that something be  
38 said to the member.

39 //

40 Where the alternates are very helpful is if we end up  
41 with weather problems, and a member is unable to come from one  
42 village, but another mem- -- an alternate is available, then we  
43 can have a quorum and do the business of the Council. But I  
44 think we would not want anybody to think it's an excuse not to  
45 come to a council meeting because there's another guy who's  
46 going to go instead. We want everybody to continue to make  
47 their best effort on behalf the subsistence users in their  
48 region.

49 //

50 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman,.....

0100

1 MR. NICK: Yeah.

2 //

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let him finish it. Go ahead.

4 //

5 MR. NICK: The reason I raise that point is when I  
6 decided to be considered for appointment, I did so because of  
7 my personal commitment to the preservation of habitat, for the  
8 conservation of the resource, and for the livelihood of the  
9 majority of the people in the villages. And whenever I can, if  
10 some other prior commitment does not prevent me, I will honor  
11 that commitment. But seeing that in March this meeting date  
12 was set, that's eight months ago, seven months ago, and there  
13 should be -- not be a problem of me planning to be here. So I  
14 just wanted to -- my fellow council members to understand that  
15 this is an important task, and it's something we must take  
16 seriously. I guess I'm urging my fellow members to recognize  
17 that we need to attend as many meetings as we can.

18 //

19 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman?

20 //

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Lester?

22 //

23 MR. L. WILDE: When we were discussing the possibility  
24 of acquiring alternates for the council members, the discussion  
25 at the time was if in the event we were excused, not we can  
26 miss a meeting any time because we have an alternate type of  
27 thing. And that was the rationale behind getting an alternate  
28 so that if we were excused, that the alternates could step in  
29 and take our place. I remember that very clearly.

30 //

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. And so you guys understand  
32 what is involved in the areas of -- okay. Thank you. We'll go  
33 to the next on our agenda, 10.E. I call on Pat and Dave, Board  
34 action/805 letter report.

35 //

36 MS. McCLENAHAN: Mr. Chairman, is it all right if we  
37 sit here to give the report?

38 //

39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

40 //

41 MS. McCLENAHAN: Pat McClenahan. The first proposal,  
42 Proposal 62, was submitted by the Akiak and Akiachak IRA  
43 councils, and it requested a positive c&t use determination  
44 finding for the communities of Akiak and Akiachak in Unit 18.  
45 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council recommended  
46 to defer action on the proposal until subsistence studies were  
47 completed for those two villages. The Board action, by consent  
48 agenda action, unanimously voted to defer action on the  
49 proposal in the same manner that was recommended by this  
50 Council.

0101

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Pat?

2 //

3 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yes?

4 //

5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Hold on. I want to make.....

6 //

7 MS. McCLENAHAN: Sure.

8 //

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: .....that the Council.....

10 //

11 MS. McCLENAHAN: Everybody's in the right.....

12 //

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: .....locate where it is.

14 //

15 MS. McCLENAHAN: Yeah. We're on tab -- I'm sorry,  
16 we're on Tab J.

17 //

18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: On your Tab J,.....

19 //

20 MS. McCLENAHAN: J.

21 //

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: .....you could find those proposals.  
23 Go ahead, Pat.

24 //

25 MS. McCLENAHAN: And these are covering the action of  
26 the Board from this last spring on the proposals that were put  
27 forth by this Council.

28 //

29 And so now I'm on page two, which is Proposal 63, and  
30 Proposal 63 is Dave's.

31 //

32 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Pat. Dave Fisher with the Fish  
33 and Wildlife Service. Proposal 63, this was submitted by the  
34 Togiak Wildlife Refuge, and what it did is sort of clarified a  
35 loophole in the regulations that has existed since 1991 when  
36 the Goodnews drainage and the Kanektok River drainages were  
37 closed to moose hunting. This added the Arolik drainage. And  
38 the reason for those closures back in '91 was due to the fact  
39 that there's very low moose populations in this area. There's  
40 also low moose -- very low moose populations in the Arolik  
41 area, so this sort of combined all those areas into the one  
42 closure. The Board supported the Staff recommendation to close  
43 that portion of the Arolik River, to remove a regulatory  
44 loophole. However, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council,  
45 you people, recommended against the proposal and wanted to keep  
46 the area open. The reason behind the Board's supporting of the  
47 Staff recommendation was to close that area and hope -- clarify  
48 the loophole, but close that area in hopes that the moose  
49 population would increase, so they did it with recognizing  
50 sound principles of fish and wildlife management. And that, if

0102

1 you'll remember at our council meeting, there was -- we had  
2 quite a discussion on that.

3 //

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go on. Our next.....

5 //

6 MS. McCLENAHAN: Okay. The next one is the request for  
7 reconsideration -- it's RFR 97-12. Two years ago this Council  
8 and the Federal Subsistence Board granted a positive customary  
9 and traditional use determination for Chevak, Hooper Bay and  
10 Scammon Bay for caribou in Unit 22(A). After that, the Alaska  
11 Department of Fish and Game submitted a request for  
12 reconsideration asking that that finding be withdrawn or  
13 reversed. And the reason for that was the State wished to have  
14 more information about Chevak, Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay's use  
15 of caribou in that -- historic use of caribou in that unit,  
16 since there was nothing much in written record about it. After  
17 that, John Andrew and I went to the community of Hooper Bay and  
18 met with elders and hunters in November, and we took oral  
19 histories from elders, and information from hunters, and we  
20 drew on maps in these areas, and we took that back and put it  
21 into a revised analysis, which we worked with with the State  
22 and got their comments back and forth. And we took it back to  
23 the Federal Subsistence Board in the spring, and the finding  
24 was that the Board supported the Staff recommendations to --  
25 I'm sorry, the Board opposed the request and retained its  
26 original determination. And this was consistent with the  
27 recommendations of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the Seward  
28 Peninsula Regional Advisory Councils. ADF&G after working  
29 closely with us joined in concurring with the Board's action in  
30 light of the additional information that was developed by us  
31 and the communities.

32 //

33 The following are Board actions on proposals from other  
34 regions that affect Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta residents.

35 //

36 Proposal 64 requested a positive customary and  
37 traditional use determination for black bear in Unit 19 for the  
38 residents of Unit 19 and Akiak and Akiachak. The proposal was  
39 submitted by the IRA councils of Akiak and Akiachak. Proposal  
40 65, a companion proposal, requested a positive c&t for black  
41 bear in Unit 19 for the rural residents of Units 19(A) and (B),  
42 and that the second proposal, Proposal 65, was submitted by the  
43 Sleetmute Village Council. The Board rejected both proposals  
44 as recommended by the Western Interior Regional Advisory  
45 Council. The reason for the rejection was that at present  
46 there is no established -- it's open to all rural residents,  
47 and the Council felt that it would be more restrictive to  
48 establish this c&t than to leave it the way it was. As it is,  
49 I believe everybody has -- it's open to all rural residents at  
50 this time, and that was their understanding.

0103

1           Proposal 66 was submitted by the IRA councils of Akiak  
2 and Akiachak, and it requested a positive c&t for brown bear in  
3 Unit 19 for the residents of Akiak and Akiachak. The Board  
4 adopted the proposal as modified by this Council and the  
5 Western Interior Regional Advisory Councils to include Unit 18  
6 residents within the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from,  
7 and including, the Johnson River for brown bear in Units 19(A)  
8 and 19(B).

9 //

10           Proposal 67 was for a positive c&t use determination  
11 for caribou for all residents of Unit 18 for Units 19(A) and  
12 19(B). That was submitted by the Association of Village  
13 Council Presidents. Proposal 68 requested a positive c&t use  
14 determination for caribou in Unit 19 for the residents of Akiak  
15 and Akiachak, and this proposal was submitted by the Akiak and  
16 Akiachak IRA councils. The Board supported the recommendations  
17 of the Western Interior and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional  
18 Advisory Councils. The Y-K Council supported Proposal 67 with  
19 modification to include Unit 18 residents within the Kuskokwim  
20 River drainage upstream from and including the Johnson River  
21 for caribou in Units 19(A) and 19(B). Western Interior  
22 Regional Advisory Council supported Y-K Delta's recommendation  
23 with an additional modification to include the residents of  
24 St. Mary's, Marshall, Point Station and Russian Mission. The  
25 Board adopted Western Interior's recommendation on Proposal 67,  
26 which took in the recommendation of the Y-K Delta Regional  
27 Advisory Council, and it rejected Proposal 68, because of the  
28 action on Proposal 67, which made Proposal 68 moot.

29 //

30           Proposal 69 requested a positive customary and  
31 traditional use determination for black bear in Unit 21 for  
32 residents of Unit 23, Tanana and Russian Mission. These -- and  
33 Proposal 70 requested a positive c&t for black bear in Units  
34 21(A) and 21(E) for residents of Akiak and Akiachak. The  
35 latter proposal was proposed by the Akiak and Akiachak IRA  
36 councils. The Board deferred action on the proposals as  
37 recommended by the Y-K Delta Regional Advisory Council until  
38 additional information on black bear is provided. The  
39 proposals were opposed by the Western Interior Regional  
40 Advisory Council, because there's no biological reason to  
41 restrict rural users at this time. The Eastern Interior  
42 Regional Advisory Council supported Proposal 69 with  
43 modification to add residents of Tanana to Unit 21(D). The  
44 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council supported Proposal  
45 69, which includes Unit 23 residents to be eligible to hunt  
46 black bears in Unit 21. Both the Eastern Interior and  
47 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Councils took no action on  
48 Proposal 70.

49 //

50           Proposal 71, which was also submitted by Akiak and

0104

1 Akiachak IRA councils, requested a positive c&t use  
2 determination for brown bear in Units 21(A) and 21(E) for the  
3 residents of Akiak and Akiachak. The Board rejected the  
4 proposal based on the lack of substantial evidence of  
5 systematic use of the area for the taking of brown bear. The  
6 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council deferred action  
7 on the proposal. The Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory  
8 Council took no action on the proposal, and the Western  
9 Interior Regional Advisory Council opposed the proposal.  
10 //

11 Proposal 72, submitted by Akiak and Akiachak IRA  
12 councils, requested a positive c&t use determination for  
13 caribou in Units 21(A) and 21(E) for the residents of Akiak and  
14 Akiachak. The Board adopted modifications to the existing c&t  
15 use determination for caribou in Unit 21. The modifications  
16 included eliminating determination by herd and excluding  
17 residents of Huslia for Unit 21(A). The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta  
18 Regional Advisory Council deferred action, and the Northwest  
19 Arctic Regional Advisory Council took no action on this  
20 proposal.  
21 //

22 Let's see here what we've got. I'm going to skip  
23 Proposals 73 and 75 that were not -- they weren't proposed by  
24 this region.  
25 //

26 Proposal 51, on page five, was submitted by the IRA  
27 Councils of Akiak and Akiachak, and it requested a positive c&t  
28 use determination for black bear in Unit 17. And Proposal 52  
29 was submitted by the IRA Council of Akiak and Akiachak, and  
30 requested a positive c&t use determination for brown bear in  
31 Unit 17. The Board unanimously voted to accept the Bristol Bay  
32 Regional Advisory Council's recommendation to support the  
33 proposals with modification. The boundaries will be Unit 17(A)  
34 and that portion of 17(B) that correspond to the old Western  
35 Alaska Brown Bear Management Area. Board action is inclusive  
36 of and therefore consistent with the recommendation of the Y-K  
37 Delta Regional Advisory Council.  
38 //

39 Proposal 53, submitted by Akiak and Akiachak IRA  
40 Councils requested a positive c&t for the Unit 18 communities  
41 of Akiak and Akiachak for Unit 17 caribou. Proposal 54 was  
42 submitted by AVCP, and it requested a positive c&t for the  
43 rural residents of Unit 18 for caribou in Units 17(A) and  
44 17(B). These two proposals were -- the analysis for these two  
45 proposals were combined into one analysis. The Board  
46 unanimously voted to accept the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory  
47 Council's recommendation to defer action. The Yukon-Kuskokwim  
48 Delta Regional Advisory Council voted to support the proposals,  
49 and the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council deferred the  
50 recommendation -- deferred to the recommendation of the Bristol



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1 Bay Council.

2 //

3 Yours.

4 //

5 MR. FISHER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Proposal 55. This was  
6 submitted by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. And what  
7 this proposal did, it redescribed and simplified Subunit 17(A)  
8 caribou hunting area. The Federal Subsistence Board by consent  
9 agenda voted unanimously to support this proposal. Their Board  
10 action was consistent with what you people and also the Bristol  
11 Bay Regional Council's -- what your recommendations were.

12 //

13 MS. McCLENAHAN: Proposal 58 was submitted by Akiak and  
14 Akiachak IRA Councils, and it requested a positive c&t finding  
15 for the residents of Akiak and Akiachak for moose in 17(B).  
16 The Board unanimously voted to defer the proposal until  
17 subsistence studies for Akiak and Akiachak are completed. This  
18 was inconsistent with the recommendation of the Y-K Delta  
19 Regional Advisory Council. Board action was consistent with  
20 the recommendation of the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory  
21 Council, which recommended to defer the proposal.

22 //

23 MR. FISHER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Proposal 59, again  
24 submitted by the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and this  
25 would change a special action that opened a moose hunting  
26 season in Unit 17(A), would change it to a permanent regulation  
27 for moose hunting in 17(A). The recommendation of the Bristol  
28 Bay Regional Council was to table this proposal until a moose  
29 management plan could be drafted for Subunit 17(A). The Board  
30 unanimously voted to support the Bristol Bay Regional Council's  
31 recommendation, and the Refuge is in the process of drafting a  
32 moose management plan. That will be discussed at our -- later  
33 on this month at our meeting in Naknek.

34 //

35 Proposal 60, also submitted by the Togiak National  
36 Wildlife Refuge, and what this proposal did, would align  
37 federal regulations with state regulations for moose hunting in  
38 Subunit 17(B) and 17(C). And the Board supported this proposal  
39 by consent agenda, again based on the recommendations from you  
40 people and the Bristol Bay Regional Council.

41 //

42 Does that conclude our.....

43 //

44 MS. McCLENAHAN: I think that concludes.....

45 //

46 MR. FISHER: I think that concludes our.....

47 //

48 MS. McCLENAHAN: .....our report.

49 //

50 MR. FISHER: .....Board actions report, Mr. Chairman.

0106

1 Thank you very much.

2 //

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, thank you. If there's any  
4 questions from the Council concerning these proposal?

5 //

6 One thing that I learn is it's pretty hard to work --  
7 when you have a proposal that overlap each other.

8 //

9 MR. FISHER: It's kind of confusing, isn't it.

10 //

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

12 //

13 MR. FISHER: Yeah.

14 //

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: It's the hardest part. At the same  
16 time that two regions don't agree with some things, and also  
17 that's the hardest part. However, that -- I'll have to say to  
18 the Council here that our supporting people that work -- they  
19 do a lot of work, like Pat and Dave and our friend right there  
20 sitting in the front of the chair there, and I think they do a  
21 lot of work helping us make things easier for us, like me that  
22 I'm not very well educated in the words, but I always somehow  
23 make it because of their help. And I think you for your help  
24 when we need it in our meetings. Yeah.

25 //

26 Again, we go down to the next on our agenda, if there's  
27 none -- no question towards proposals. We'll go down to 10.F.,  
28 how are the local animals population doing in Unit 18. Steve  
29 Kovach. These are on caribous and the moose and the bear.

30 YDNWR.

31 //

32 (Pause - setting up overhead)

33 //

34 MR. KOVACH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I'd  
35 like to kind of preface my remarks. As some of you may have  
36 already been able to guess, Roger Seavoy from the Department of  
37 Fish and Game and I work very closely with each other, not only  
38 on species of caribou, moose and bears, but on all the other  
39 mammals that occur in the Delta here as well.

40 //

41 Turning first to caribou, last year was actually a very  
42 good year for caribou out here on the Delta. Starting in  
43 December of last year, we documented 19,000 caribou on the  
44 refuge here. That was a combination of both the Kilbuck and  
45 the Mulchatna herds. In January those numbers swelled to  
46 25,000, and by February, those numbers were up to 38,000 here  
47 on the refuge. This is the largest number of caribou we've  
48 documented on the refuge to date. Consistent with spring  
49 migrations back towards the calving areas, and typical seasonal  
50 movements, the number of animals had dropped down to 19,000 by

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1 March of this year, and as the spring progressed, the numbers  
2 kept falling.

3 //

4 Also, in December and January we had an unknown number  
5 of Western Arctic caribou on the refuge. Several attempts to  
6 go to the north end of the refuge to document the caribou and  
7 their numbers and their distribution were thwarted by weather  
8 and plane problems and things like that. But I did receive  
9 reports from hunters from both Marshall and Russian Mission  
10 that they were catching caribou south of the Yukon River in the  
11 vicinity of Ohogamiut.

12 //

13 Again, very few animals from what is traditionally  
14 known as the Kilbuck Mountain Herd spent the summer in the  
15 Kilbuck Mountains. We believe something less than 3,000  
16 animals were present this summer. However, one of the exciting  
17 things that we were able to do this year is we did document  
18 some fairly extensive calving occurring throughout the Kilbuck  
19 Mountains this year, and this is the first time we've been able  
20 to document substantial calving in the mountains for about  
21 three years now. We've had very little if any calving in  
22 previous years, mostly because these animals have been joined  
23 up with the Mulchatna animals and calving over with them over  
24 in the Shotgun Hills and places on east of there.

25 //

26 Sometime the latter part of August, we had a sizeable  
27 number of Mulchatna animals move back onto the refuge. The  
28 tail end of August, we were able to document a minimum of  
29 12,000 caribou on the refuge, and therefore we -- with that  
30 minimum amount available, the refuge managers from both Yukon  
31 Refuge and the Togiak Refuge exercised their right under the  
32 federal subsistence guidelines and opened the federal  
33 subsistence hunt on the 1st of September. Concurrent with  
34 that, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game opened the state  
35 season for caribou in Unit 18 south of the Yukon River for  
36 caribou. Like last year, the bag limit has been set to five  
37 caribou of either sex. So hunters locally here have a very  
38 good opportunity to harvest caribou.

39 //

40 In fact, in the middle part of last week we had another  
41 resurgence of caribou, and on Wednesday and Thursday, I counted  
42 17,000 caribou along the Kwethluk River alone, and another  
43 8,000 caribou scattered around in other areas in the nearby  
44 hills. So we have a fair number of caribou present.

45 //

46 Unfortunately, we only have 20 radio collars that are  
47 functioning on a somewhat consistent, reliable basis, and even  
48 some of those are a little questionable. Both the refuge and  
49 Fish and Game hope to combine efforts next month and put out 30  
50 fresh radio collars to improve our efficiency in monitoring the

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1 caribou herds throughout the year.

2 //

3 Moose. We've already talked a little bit about moose.  
4 Just a quick review. We've got five census areas established  
5 on the refuge in Unit 18 here that the late Randy Kacyon  
6 identified. We attempt to do one of these units every year to  
7 census moose, to get a handle on what's happening.  
8 Unfortunately for two or three years we had inadequate snow  
9 conditions in order to carry out these censuses, so we're  
10 really behind in doing these surveys.

11 //

12 Last year, however, we were able to get one of two that  
13 were planned completed. The one we worked on was a 1600 square  
14 mile area along the Yukon River beginning at Paimiut and going  
15 down to Pilot Station. We did this in March. Personnel and  
16 aircraft from both Refuge, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,  
17 and Fish and Wildlife Protection participated in this effort.  
18 In the four-day effort we observed 1,253 moose in this area,  
19 which gave us an average density of 1.3 moose per square mile.  
20 Densities ranged anywhere from 0.3 moose per square mile, this  
21 was in the upper -- the upland areas and the hills where it's  
22 predominated by spruce trees, with -- ranging all the way to a  
23 high of nine moose per square mile basically on the islands in  
24 the Yukon River itself where it's predominated by early growth  
25 willows.

26 //

27 As part of the effort to extrapolate from what we  
28 surveyed to the whole census area, in our census area, we only  
29 surveyed 500 square miles of that 16, but through the various  
30 mathematics that we use, we estimate last winter's moose  
31 population in that area at slightly more than 2,000 moose. The  
32 last time this area was done -- or the only other time this  
33 area was counted was approximately seven years ago, and this  
34 population estimate is almost double the previous one, so we  
35 are growing moose in the area as Roger had stated before.

36 //

37 Like I said, we had plans to do a second census, but we  
38 lost the snow cover, so we were unable to do it. We planned to  
39 try and do two more this winter. If we get the snow conditions  
40 to facilitate it, then we will pull those off, and start to  
41 catch back up to where we need to be in our rotation.

42 //

43 Due to the age of the previous census efforts, they're  
44 quite old, we really don't have a current estimate for the  
45 number of moose in Unit 18 as a whole, or for Yukon River or  
46 Kuskokwim drainages. We just -- you know, we've got some gut  
47 feelings, but we have no real idea. We know we're growing  
48 moose, but we don't know exactly how fast they're growing. As  
49 I said before though, our observations, observations from Fish  
50 and Game employees, as well as reports from local hunters, all

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1 these things tell us that we're growing moose and whatnot, so  
2 these are very encouraging things.

3 //

4 We still have a tremendous amount of moose habitat  
5 available that are not being used by moose, particularly along  
6 the Kuskokwim here.

7 //

8 Over the past year a number of people have made  
9 inquiries to the refuge, as well as Fish and Game, as far as  
10 the status of moose, particularly along the Kuskokwim River.  
11 We've been getting questions on how fast can a moose population  
12 grow, or how fast does a moose population grow. What can be  
13 done to promote growth of the local herd? So along this line,  
14 we looked at a handout that the late Randy Kacyon developed a  
15 few years ago that attempted to depict potential moose  
16 production here, particularly along the Kuskokwim area, and  
17 that's the handout that you have.

18 //

19 See if we can make this work. Yeah, we'll make this  
20 work.

21 //

22 Randy developed a set of assumptions, and I kind of  
23 expanded on those assumptions a little bit. Basically two-  
24 year-old and younger cows do not breed and have calves, but  
25 three-year-old and older cows do breed and have calves every  
26 year. Three-year-old cows always give birth to a single calf.  
27 It's their first one. Four-year-old cows always give birth to  
28 twins. Twin calves are born once every three years. This is  
29 what we refer to as a twinning rate of 33 percent, or one  
30 third. On average, for every bull calf born, there's a cow  
31 calf born, what we refer to as a 50/50 sex ratio. And that the  
32 matriarch cow or the initial cow will produce calves for a  
33 minimum of 14 years. This is basically kind of a conservative  
34 value. The statewide average is 16 years, and in some cases  
35 moose have been documented to produce calves 18 and 20 years in  
36 duration. These are fairly simplistic kinds of assumptions,  
37 but they're mostly just to kind of give a general idea of the  
38 possibilities. They're not hard and fast rules.

39 //

40 On the second page of your handout, you can kind of see  
41 the results in graphic form. It's not going to fit up there,  
42 but it's close enough. What you have is the initial or  
43 matriarch cow here in the middle. She's already of  
44 reproductive age. Each ring is a year, the dotted lines  
45 indicate the offspring from each particular cow, so with this  
46 first calf, it's a female, once she becomes three years of age,  
47 she starts producing calves, and these are her calves. Once  
48 this cow becomes three years of age, she start producing  
49 calves. That's kind of how the spider web works. Basically  
50 what we see in the results is that in 14 years this initial cow

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1 will produce 19 calves. Her female offspring will over the  
2 same 14-year time period will produce an additional 195 calves.  
3 The total production between the initial cow and her female  
4 offspring over this 14 years is 214 calves. If even only half  
5 of these calves survive, this initial cow is responsible for  
6 adding 107 moose to the population in 14 years.

7 //

8 Now, if -- that's kind of -- it's kind of hard to count  
9 moose on that thing, so this is a little bit easier way to see  
10 the production of moose through time. It starts off very slow,  
11 but as more and more females enter the breeding age, or are old  
12 enough to produce calves, the number of calves starts growing  
13 very quickly on out here to 14 years. However, if we say maybe  
14 she actually produces calves on out to 15 years, here at year  
15 14 we're only looking at about 220 calves produced, but if you  
16 go all the way out to 15 and 16 years, you see at year 15 we're  
17 at 300, and at year 16 we're at 413, so it starts growing very,  
18 very quickly.

19 //

20 That was -- we always get questions on how fast can you  
21 grow moose, and this is one effort to try and answer that  
22 question.

23 //

24 With regards to black bears, we have -- the refuge has  
25 not gathered any additional information over what we've had in  
26 years past on black bears, so we don't really know how many --  
27 or what the status of black bear population is on the refuge,  
28 other than we keep seeing a lot of black bears, we're getting a  
29 lot of reports of black bears, so we have no reason to believe  
30 the population has really changed substantially in recent  
31 years, and that it appears to be rather healthy.

32 //

33 With regards to brown bears, unfortunately we have no  
34 new information on the status or size of the population at this  
35 time.

36 //

37 Mr. Chair, at your preference, I can either go ahead  
38 and update the brown bear collaring project now or do it later  
39 when it's identified in the agenda. Mr. Chair, would you like  
40 me to review the collaring project now or wait until it comes  
41 up in the agenda, which is later?

42 //

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Maybe later.

44 //

45 MR. KOVACH: Okay. The last thing I do want to touch  
46 on very quickly is wolves and wolverine. Over the last two  
47 winters we have seen a fairly tremendous increase in the  
48 harvest of both wolves and wolverine in Unit 18, particularly  
49 on the Kuskokwim side of things. Area trappers have really  
50 been getting a lot more. We don't believe it's due to an

0111

1 increased effort in trapping, but in fact a real increase in  
2 those populations. And we're very desirous to learn more about  
3 these two species, what their populations are doing.

4 //

5 The Refuge is going to be working with Fish and Game  
6 this winter. We're going to be attempting to implement a  
7 program that will purchase intact carcasses from trappers.  
8 What we can learn from these carcasses and what we hope to  
9 learn is the sex and age of the animals being trapped, the  
10 number of young produced the previous year by the females that  
11 are trapped, as well as trying to gain a little bit of insight  
12 on their food habits. If there's anything in their stomachs  
13 that we can still identify, then we'll be doing that. You can  
14 help us in this project by letting trappers in your villages  
15 know that we're going to be attempting to do this project. If  
16 we do in fact get the funding to do this, we will let all the  
17 area trappers know by mailing announcements to all the  
18 traditional and IRA councils in the area, working with the  
19 local fur buyers and people like that. And it's just more of  
20 an effort to take advantage of the animals being trapped by  
21 trappers, and trying to gather more information to learn more  
22 about the populations that we do have. They're obviously  
23 healthy and expanding. We would just like to learn some more  
24 about them.

25 //

26 And that's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

27 //

28 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana. Do you guys have questions on  
29 his report? John.

30 //

31 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear  
32 you mention the Yukon, or maybe I -- maybe you did, but I  
33 didn't hear you. These 1,253 that you counted, is it the  
34 Kuskokwim and the Yukon or just Kuskokwim?

35 //

36 MR. KOVACH: No, that was just on the Yukon, and that  
37 was a very small portion of the Yukon from Paimiut down to  
38 Pilot Station. There's -- we have three count areas along the  
39 Yukon. We have the Paimiut section, which is what we did is  
40 that 1600 square mile area from Paimiut down to Pilot. The  
41 Andraefsky section, which goes from Pilot down to Mountain  
42 Village, and on up the Andraefsky drainages, in that area. And  
43 then the mouth of the Yukon, which is from Mountain Village on  
44 out to the very bottom. Then we have one along the Kuskokwim  
45 River from Aniak all the way down to Kwethluk, and then we have  
46 what we call the Nyac section, which is the mountainous area  
47 that incorporates the upper Tuluksak River, upper Fog River,  
48 upper Kisaralik, and that area up in there.

49 //

50 MR. HANSON: Yeah. What was your count below Mountain

0112

1 and.....

2 //

3 MR. KOVACH: Okay. We didn't do a count below  
4 Mountain. Roger did a quick survey below Mountain Village, and  
5 I'm sure he'll cover that when he gives his report tomorrow,  
6 but our -- the census effort where we have a small air force  
7 and a mountain of people involved, that only worked on that  
8 Paimiut to Pilot Station area this last year. What our plans  
9 are this year is to do that Andreafsky section, and if we have  
10 the snow conditions, then we'll either do the Kuskokwim River  
11 one, or the Nyac one, just depending upon where we get the snow  
12 conditions to do it.

13 //

14 MR. HANSON: And in other words you don't have no plans  
15 say after the snow comes to go below Mountain?

16 //

17 MR. KOVACH: Well, it's not in the schedule. You know,  
18 if all the snow's up on the Yukon, and none down here on the  
19 Kuskokwim, then we'll do them both along the Yukon there. It's  
20 more -- we have a set rotation, but it's also dictated by snow  
21 conditions, wherever we had the snow conditions, and that's  
22 where we'll go do our work.

23 //

24 MR. HANSON: Like after we had that five-year mandatory  
25 closure below Mountain,.....

26 //

27 MR. KOVACH: Uh-hum.

28 //

29 MR. HANSON: .....all the way to Cape Romanzof,.....

30 //

31 MR. KOVACH: Right.

32 //

33 MR. HANSON: .....Kushlavek (ph), Kotlik, our  
34 populations sprung back up.

35 //

36 MR. KOVACH: Uh-hum.

37 //

38 MR. HANSON: And for the last two years now that they  
39 open from one to 20, except for this year they went from one to  
40 20 and then somebody told they extended it to the 26th, so I  
41 didn't hear of it, but they told me. But the population of  
42 moose in that area sprung -- is starting to sprung back up, and  
43 this years there's more moose than last year.

44 //

45 MR. KOVACH: Right. That's the reports we're getting  
46 everywhere. More people are seeing more moose, and not just at  
47 the mouth of the Yukon, but everywhere, so it's very  
48 encouraging. You know, we're getting moose grown. It's kind  
49 of discouraging to us managers, because it seems like we should  
50 be growing more moose faster out there, and we're not certain



0113

1 of all of the factors contributing to that.

2 //

3 MR. HANSON: There's all these moose still from below  
4 Mountain, they're migrating over to Black River, Uslavak (ph),  
5 and I guess one or two probably went over to Scammon and  
6 Hooper.

7 //

8 MR. KOVACH: Well, that's the whole idea behind growing  
9 moose so they go places.

10 //

11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more questions? Thank you.

12 //

13 MR. KOVACH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 //

15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're hoping that we will go faster  
16 from now. Next on our agenda is new business, item 11, we're  
17 getting -- we've got into now reports. To make the things  
18 faster, reports highlights only, and please provide brief  
19 written summary, and also please limit your presentation to the  
20 data and also please allow time for questions from Regional  
21 Council and from public here. Audience. And next under new  
22 business is number one is report, Yukon Delta NWR, Refuge  
23 Manager, Mike Riorden.

24 //

25 MR. RIORDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I will be  
26 fast. The first one we have listed on here is the steel shot  
27 update, and Chuck Hunt deals with that more than anybody. I've  
28 asked him to give that report. I'll give a quick rundown on  
29 the emperor goose status. Steve can talk about the brown bear  
30 collaring project as he promised a few minutes ago. In 30  
31 seconds I can tell you about waterfowl banding, and then I've  
32 got one other thing that isn't on there that I'd like to talk  
33 about for a few minutes, and it's the issue about migratory  
34 bird subsistence, and the development of the managing bodies,  
35 and that won't take very long. But first I'd like Chuck to  
36 talk about steel shoot.

37 //

38 MR. HUNT: Qu yana, Mr. Chairman. We've had our steel  
39 shot program for the last ten years or more, and we've gone to  
40 31 villages already in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. In April we  
41 went to Sheldon's Point, Alakanuk, and Holy Cross, and then in  
42 August we went to Aniak, Russian Mission, and Akiachak. And  
43 for this coming April we're going to Upper and Lower Kalskag,  
44 Tuluksak, Goodnews Bay, and Napaskiak and Oscarville. And for  
45 the last villages in August 199- -- that was for April 1999.  
46 And for August 1999, we have Napakiak, Kipnuk, Kwigillingok,  
47 Kongiganak and Akiak, and we will also do Bethel again. We've  
48 have five steel shot seminars and shooting clinics in Bethel,  
49 and twice in Emmonak. And I have copies of all of this  
50 information for each of the Council members.

0114

1 MR. RIORDEN: And incidentally, this spring was the  
2 first year that we started enforcing the use of steel shot. We  
3 had Fish and Wildlife Protection people out in the field  
4 checking hunters, and I'm pleased to tell you that compliance  
5 was very good. Out of all the hunters checked, I think there  
6 were about half a dozen tickets that were written, but a lot of  
7 other people were checked and were using steel shot, so I think  
8 that compliance is probably better than it is in a lot of other  
9 parts of the country.

10 //

11 Mr. Chairman, the next one on here is emperor goose  
12 status. Frankly, it's bad. The population has been declining  
13 for many years now. In the 1960s there were nearly --  
14 somewhere around 150,000 emperor geese that come to the Delta.  
15 Most of the birds nest on the Delta, and, of course, as you  
16 know, they winter in the Aleutian Islands, so these are only  
17 Alaskan birds. Since that time, that population has continued  
18 to decrease, whereas other goose populations, such as the  
19 cackling Canada goose and the white-fronted goose, and the  
20 Pacific black brant have either recovered fully and have grown  
21 to large numbers, or remain stable as is the case with the  
22 black brant. The emperor goose count this last spring was down  
23 to 39,000 birds. So we do have some serious concerns about  
24 emperor geese. We don't have all of the answers about why  
25 they're declining. One of our major concerns is that there's  
26 continued fairly heavy harvest by some villages along the coast  
27 that have not agreed to cooperate or be part of the goose  
28 management plan, and we feel that they are having some effect.  
29 Especially now that the population has dropped to this level,  
30 continued harvest right now has more of an effect than it ever  
31 did when the population was fairly high. So we're continuing  
32 to try to work with those villages and get some agreement with  
33 those villages, and encourage them to decrease the harvest on  
34 emperor geese. I'm hoping that the next time I report on  
35 emperor geese I can report some improvement in that. We'd sure  
36 like to all see that.

37 //

38 I might as well continue with the waterfowl bird  
39 banding project. It's just an annual management activity that  
40 we conduct. We work with the WCC on coordinating what our  
41 activities and this year I believe we've banded about 500  
42 cackling Canada geese, and a few white fronted geese and a  
43 little over 1,000 ducks. These are all parts of studies on  
44 pintail ducks and cackling Canada geese.

45 //

46 And actually the -- probably one of the more important  
47 things I want to talk over, and there is a handout in the back  
48 that will describe this, so I'm not going to read the entire  
49 thing to you, but I do want to make people aware that the  
50 handout is back there, and the importance of this issue.

0115

1           We're fast reaching the point where spring waterfowl  
2 hunting will be legal on the Delta. As everybody knows, people  
3 have been doing it on the Delta ever since the day it became  
4 illegal, and long before that, and will continue to do it for a  
5 long time. But through the efforts of a lot of people,  
6 including Myron Nanning and other native people in Alaska,  
7 Charlie Brower and Jonathan Solomon specifically, dealt with  
8 this issue, and Fish and Wildlife Service people and a lot of  
9 other people that supported making this a legal harvest in the  
10 spring. We think that within probably three to four years from  
11 now a spring will dawn with a legal spring season. There will  
12 be seasons and bag limits and all those things, but all of  
13 those have to be developed through a public process, and that's  
14 why it's going to take a significant amount of time to make it  
15 legal.

16 //

17           We -- my feeling on this especially is that we need to  
18 take the time to do it right. I mean, we've waited this long  
19 to have a legal season, we need to make sure that everybody's  
20 input is gathered before it occurs, and that when it happens,  
21 it's done in a reasonable fashion. So there will be a series  
22 of meetings this year in determining how they're going to  
23 establish management bodies. Now, the management of these birds  
24 is going to be shared equally between the State of Alaska, the  
25 Federal Government, Fish and Wildlife Service, and native  
26 people. So native people are going to have a lot of influence  
27 on how migratory birds are managed in Alaska. The opportunity  
28 on how this is going to occur is going to be developed over the  
29 winter. And there will be a meeting here in Bethel on October  
30 29th, right in this room as a matter of fact, to discuss these  
31 management bodies, and try to gather input from people all over  
32 the Delta as to how we're going to do that. There is nothing  
33 established yet. We haven't made a plan on how it's going to  
34 happen. We're waiting until all the public input is in before  
35 that decision is made. I encourage you to try to attend that  
36 meeting if you can on the 29th.

37 //

38           In addition to that, the refuge information technicians  
39 working with Chuck will be gathering that information from the  
40 villages across the delta throughout this entire process and  
41 bringing it in for us to us in developing these  
42 recommendations.

43 //

44           I encourage you to pick up this handout. I believe  
45 there still are some back there?

46 //

47           MR. BRELSFORD: There are just a few. We'll need to  
48 make some more tonight and have them here tomorrow.

49 //

50           MR. RIORDEN: Okay. We'll make sure some more are made

0116

1 so everybody can have one, and encourage you to read that and  
2 make people in your villages aware of this issue that's coming  
3 up. It's very important to a lot of people.

4 //

5 The last thing we had on this list was the brown bear  
6 collaring project, and Steve is going to briefly go over that.

7 //

8 MR. KOVACH: Yes, Mr. Chair. This last year we had  
9 some mortalities associated with the project. This past spring  
10 a sport hunter harvested a male that we marked with ear tags  
11 back in '93. We marked that animal near Heart Lake in 1993.  
12 It was harvested over by Aniak Lake. Our oldest female with a  
13 radio collar on the project was killed by another bear last  
14 fall just prior to her going into the den. She was 29 years  
15 old, and she had weaned a three-year-old cub that spring. Then  
16 apparently over the winter, we had a den collapse on a radio-  
17 collared bear and killed her. We haven't been able to get to  
18 the den site and excavate it to make sure that's what happened,  
19 but all indications are that's what has gone on there. These  
20 two females with radio collars are the first natural  
21 mortalities we've had associated with this project since we've  
22 started it in '93. It also brings the number of radio-collared  
23 bears that we have down to 23.

24 //

25 As you may recall at your meeting last spring, we  
26 informed the Council that we're going to attempt to conduct a  
27 census in June to -- using the existing radio collars we had to  
28 see if we could derive any kind of valid information for  
29 management use. We identified a 540 square mile area with 16  
30 search areas. The first week of June we assembled four search  
31 aircraft. They were Super Cubs or Huskies, as well as an over-  
32 flight aircraft, a Cessna 185. We scheduled 10 days to try and  
33 get in five days of flying. The weather only allowed us to  
34 have three days, and one of those was not a good quality day at  
35 that. The results we obtained are basically unusable for  
36 estimating a population size or density within our study area.

37 //

38 For the bears that we did observe on the three days  
39 that we did fly, the data suggests that somewhere between 18  
40 and 22 percent of the adult bear population in our study area  
41 has radio collars at this time.

42 //

43 Unfortunately we put in -- a whole lot of people put in  
44 a whole lot of time and effort and the weather went and beat us  
45 down, so we still don't have any real handle on how many bears  
46 we have in the Kuskokwim Mountains at this time.

47 //

48 MR. RIORDEN: That's all we had, Mr. Chairman, thank  
49 you.

50 //

0117

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions? Thank you for.....

2 //

3 MR. L. WILDE: Mike, you know could you -- do you have  
4 any idea of why the emperor goose population is -- are you  
5 studying it in just a certain set area? Because it seems to me  
6 from my own observations, it seems that we have in some areas a  
7 larger number of the emperor geese. I don't know is there a  
8 shift.....

9 //

10 MR. RIORDEN: That's true, and Hooper.....

11 //

12 MR. L. WILDE: .....in the population?

13 //

14 MR. RIORDEN: That's true, and Hooper Bay is one of  
15 them, you know, in that area. That is the central location of  
16 the population of nesting emperor geese on the Delta is in the  
17 Hooper Bay, Chevak area, and the area where we studied them  
18 primarily. We also do a lot of aerial surveys so we can see  
19 where the.....

20 //

21 MR. L. WILDE: Uh-hum.

22 //

23 MR. RIORDEN: .....birds are. And there are not very  
24 many birds in the areas other than between Nelson Island and  
25 the Askinuk (ph) Mountains. So what you're seeing is pretty  
26 much the population of emperor geese.

27 //

28 MR. L. WILDE: Just right there.

29 //

30 MR. RIORDEN: Yeah, that's it.

31 //

32 MR. L. WILDE: Thank you.

33 //

34 MR. RIORDEN: Thank you.

35 //

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

37 //

38 MR. NICK: Mike, that very seem geese winters down in  
39 that short road project down in King Cove?

40 //

41 MR. RIORDEN: Some of them do, although emperor geese  
42 are scattered throughout the Aleutian Islands. They go as far  
43 as the far end of the islands all the way up, and some even  
44 winter as close as Kodiak Island, so very few birds winter for  
45 the entire time in Izembek Lagoon. The birds that we're  
46 concerned primarily there would probably be the black brant.  
47 The entire population goes there for a significant amount of  
48 time. Thank you.

49 //

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

0118

1 MR. NICK: Just a slight comment. All the shooting  
2 seminars that Chuck is holding in all these villages may be  
3 making sharp shooters out of our hunters,.....

4 //

5 (Laughter)

6 //

7 MR. RIORDEN: That might be it.

8 //

9 MR. NICK: .....because they're killing more of our  
10 birds.

11 //

12 MR. RIORDEN: That could be it.

13 //

14 MR. L. WILDE: I know it made a better shot out of me,  
15 Chuck.

16 //

17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda is next report from  
18 Togiak NWR, Andy Aderman, biologist. He'll be giving us walrus  
19 and seabird monitoring, also moose and caribou on Unit 17,  
20 17(A) and part of 18.

21 //

22 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name's Andy  
23 Aderman. I'm a wildlife biologist at Togiak National Wildlife  
24 Refuge. For the benefit of the new members, Togiak Refuge is  
25 split with half being in your region, the other half in the  
26 Bristol Bay Region.

27 //

28 In the interest of time, Dave's handed out my report.  
29 I can skip over the walrus, seabird, and public use management  
30 plan program, and I'll just talk about moose and caribou.

31 //

32 Starting with caribou, Steve gave the report for Unit  
33 18. Just across in the Togiak drainage, we did not have a lot  
34 of caribou come in last winter. We had some, but not like the  
35 winter before when we had 30 to 40,000. There's not many in  
36 there right now as I speak, although talking with Steve, he did  
37 see some coming down the Trail Creek drainage, so it looks like  
38 they're starting to move into that area. The season has been  
39 closed. When enough caribou come in, we'll open that season.

40 //

41 Moving on to moose, we've seen a lot of moose increase  
42 in the Togiak Valley in the last five years. In the early 90s,  
43 you were hard pressed to find more than 25 moose in that entire  
44 area. We did a count this last February and March and counted  
45 a minimum 429.

46 //

47 As Dave mentioned earlier on one of the proposals that  
48 was dealt with last year, we're in the process of developing a  
49 management plan for that area to deal with how we open seasons,  
50 at what rate do we harvest the moose.

0119

1 I might back up and just mention that this increase in  
2 moose is due to probably several factors in that we have real  
3 good habitat there, we've had pretty mild winters, not much  
4 snow, which means it's good for the moose and tough for the  
5 hunters to get out. We've also had the caribou come in, that  
6 we know people are taking caribou instead of moose. And we're  
7 getting movement from the area around Dillingham and Aleknagik.  
8 People in that area voluntarily restricted their winter hunting  
9 in some of the areas to allow those moose to increase and move  
10 to the west, and that's what they've done.  
11 //

12 I just mentioned this moose management plan that we're  
13 working on now. I see the Goodnews drainage and the Kanektok  
14 drainage in the same place that the Togiak drainage was six or  
15 seven years ago: lots of habitat, few wolves. There's a lot  
16 of potential there for moose to move in.  
17 //

18 And that essentially wraps up my report, Mr. Chairman.  
19 If there's any questions, I'll try to answer.  
20 //

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there's any questions from the  
22 Council? Or from the audience? If there's not, thank you.  
23 //

24 We're going to take a break. Tomorrow morning about  
25 8:00 o'clock is what the.....  
26 //

27 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)  
28 //

29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Break until about eight in the  
30 morning.  
31 //

32 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)  
33 //

34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead. You had something?  
35 //

36 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as you're leaving  
37 the room this evening, Rich Cannon brought some materials for  
38 you. They're reference materials, not something he will read  
39 in a report tomorrow, but in case you would like to look  
40 through those this evening, they're at the table there. One is  
41 on the Bering Sea ecosystem, another on the fall -- on the  
42 Yukon River chinook. There are several reports laid out, and  
43 if you wanted to take those and have a look this evening,  
44 they're available to you.  
45 //

46 (Whispered conversation)  
47 //

48 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman?  
49 //

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert?

0120

1 MR. NICK: I move we recess until 8:00 a.m. tomorrow.

2 //

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Nobody wants to recess?

4 //

5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible) make a motion or  
6 just recess?

7 //

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, we will recess until eight in  
9 the morning. Okay.

10 //

11 (Off record - 5:15 p.m.)

12 //

13 \*\*\*\*\*

14 (TO BE CONTINUED)

15 \*\*\*\*\*



C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA        )  
  ) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA                    )

I, Meredith L. Downing, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska and Reporter for R & R Court Reporters, Inc., do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 120 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Volume I meeting taken electronically by me on the 6th day of October, 1997, beginning at the hour of 8:00 o'clock a.m. at the Cultural Center, Bethel, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me to the best of my knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 12th day of October, 1998.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 7/3/02

S E A L